WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 22, No. 2 | SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990 | June 2011

Evergreen settles lawsuit over electronic records request

from WIP News Service

The Evergreen State College has settled a student lawsuit over public records relating to campus police activity. The records request, which involved electronic communications and their associated metadata, demonstrates the changing nature of public records (and records requests) in the digital age.

On November 4, 2009, student Alex Bryan sent a records request to Evergreen, specifically requesting "...all emails sent to or from any sworn officer or employee of Evergreen Police Services (or parking enforcement) or any email address that is owned/operated by Police Services with 'full headers' between 2008 and the end of October 2009." In particular, Bryan specifically requested the records be provided "in the file format that they exist in."

After first being told he would begin receiving these records in January 2010, Bryan was then told the school was unable to process the request. John Carmichael, Executive Assistant to the President of Evergreen, told Bryan that Evergreen "do[es] not currently have the technology necessary to redact electronic records while preserving the integrity of the original electronic record," suggesting they could only provide the records on paper. Bryan offered information on free and accessible techniques for electronic redaction, but the school declined, choosing instead to deny these records.

RCW 42.56 (The Public Records Act), and its subsections, make it clear that Evergreen is obligated to provide public records in a timely manner, unless the record falls within a listed exception (such as personal information of a student). A denial of a record must be accompanied by the specifics of why it's been exempted. If redaction would eliminate the need for an exemption, then the law requires the redacted record be provided. In regards to electronic communications, while it's possible to convert electronic records into paper documents, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in *O'Neill v. City of Shoreline* (October 2010) that "an electronic version of a record, including its embedded metadata, is a public record subject to disclosure."

While it's possible to convert electronic records into paper, in 2010 the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that "an electronic version of a record, including its embedded metadata, is a public record subject to disclosure."

There are two reasons why it's important for electronic records to be preserved as they are. First, if you're dealing with large volumes of records, they're relatively useless without some method of searchability, which electronic text provides. Also important is the electronic metadata, or "data about data." In the case of email, metadata would include information about the email not contained in the email itself, such as the sender, the recipient, the time it was sent, etc.

In 2009, local activist Brendan Dunn received a public records request for police communications regarding local activists, and uncovered illegal spying on activists by the military. Included in the metadata of the emails Dunn received was the name "Towery II, John J CIV USA

▸ **EVERGREEN,** continued on page 9

Native-image mascots, on and off the field

by Wally Cuddeford

The recent killing of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan has reignited the ongoing national controversy over unsolicited use of elements of American Indian heritage by the settler society. The defining quote of the mission, sent upon bin Laden's death, was "Geronimo EKIA," or "Geronimo – Enemy Killed In Action." Military records released since the mission make it clear "Geronimo" was used both as a codename for the mission and as a nickname for bin Laden himself.

On Thursday, May 5, outrage over the use of the name "Geronimo" was incorporated into an already-scheduled Senate hearing on the use of Native-image mascots in sports, titled "Stolen Identities: The Impact of Racist Stereotypes on Indigenous People." Suzan Shown Harjo, President of the Morning Star Institute (an American Indian advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.), testified:

> *"We must start with Geronimo - the man, and the leader, and the person who has become a fine role model for our children all over Indian Country. For him to be compared to a terrorist and to be called an enemy is shocking. It wasn't just that his name was used, although that would be bad enough, because that's what happens in America. Our names are not our own. They're stolen - our tribal names, our personal names..."*

Linking the use of Native terminology appropriated by the military and the use of Native-image mascots by schools and sports teams only begins to address the depth of our society's disrespect for Native culture. The history of Hollywood and television are replete with demeaning caricatures of American Indians. For several years, YMCA hosted programs called "Indian Guides" (for young boys) and "Indian Princesses" (for young girls), wherein Whites would form "tribes" – even stealing the names of existing tribes without permission – elect "Chiefs," dress up in mock-Indian attire, and perform parodies of American Indian rituals. Yet, with all these mascots and caricatures around us, distorting our perception of Natives past and present, there is a notable absence of real-life representations of Native people and their struggles in the public consciousness. As many foreign exchange students have noted, all they had known about Native Americans, they learned from Hollywood.

Linking the use of Native terminology stolen by the military and the use of Native-image mascots by sports teams only begins to address the depth of our society's disrespect for Native culture.

While it is common for non-Natives to have debates as to whether Native-image mascots are offensive or not, in fact the debate has long been settled by Native people themselves. If one is looking for the answer, one need only listen to the preponderance of Native governments and organizations, who have *overwhelmingly* condemned the use of such mascots. The real discussion we need to have involves coming to understand how and why these mascots consistently elicit the responses they do.

Epithets

[Note: This section contains some very ugly terminology.]

The use of Native-image mascots in sports began in the early years of the 20th century. It's estimated that about 3,000 schools have had Native-image mascots or Native-themed team names at some point, some of them going back well over a century. Between 1,000 and 2,000 of those schools retain those mascots today. These team names include "Indians," "Braves," "Chiefs," "Warriors," "Tomahawks," "Totems," "Savages," "Redskins," "Red Men," "Red Raiders," "Red Devils," "Red Hordes," and various tribe names such as "Seminoles," "Apache," and "Chocktaws." An extreme minority of these are used with the consent of local tribal councils, while a large majority are used over the explicit objections of the representative Native community.

There seems to be no limit to the offensive lengths a school will go in their abuse of Native identity. Dozens of schools in the U.S. today, in 2011, use the name "Redskins." Until recently, Pocahontas Middle School in Powhatan, Virginia, used the nickname "the Squaws," a racial slur against American Indian women.

Another category are teams which don't explicitly define a race, but which employ mock-Indian mascots or symbology. The Golden State "Warriors" of the NBA used a Native caricature as its logo for 25 years. Eastern Washington University once used a grinning Indian

▸ **MASCOTS,** continued on page 12

Works In Progress

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

Workers In Progress

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Teresa Jennings
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and room for more...

COVER GRAPHIC AND PAGE 1 GRAPHIC BY AL ZIMMERMAN

WIP Schedule

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You should write for WIP.

Letters to Works In Progress

Response to Dana Walker piece on homelessness

I'm writing in regards to the article titled "Olympia City Council's Assault on the Homeless." [Read the article from the May *WIP* at www.olywip.org]

Let me begin by saying that I can identify with much of what inspired your article. The City is notoriously difficult to work with on such complex social issues as homelessness, made none the better by deteriorating funds for social outreach programs. To appease a particular tax/voting base, they often turn to the sort of 'band-aid' efforts that are often poorly researched and even more poorly implemented. The results often fail to meet the expectations of those they are aimed to please, while simultaneously pissing off those who they are aimed at. Downtown parking is one such example, as is the issue of homelessness in Olympia.

My main reason for writing is more a plea than it is a contradiction. While you may not identify as one of those on the negotiating side of the activist spectrum, your article seems to indicate you've done more homework and have more experience in that area than you give yourself credit for. The sit-in at the capitol is a perfect example. So here is my plea: I am a downtown business owner who has no connection to the City Council, except to be at the whim of their decisions. I can say from personal experience that many of the downtown business owners I have spoken with are of the same mind you are: homelessness and panhandling is not a problem, but a symptom. My plea is that you not inflict the wrath of the community you represent on the businesses of downtown. Many of us are supportive, and our day-to-day operations prove that. We are the businesses that treat you like the human beings you are, even if you aren't dressed in Abercrombie & Finch. We are the businesses that let you linger longer than we might otherwise, because we understand you have nowhere else to go. We are the businesses that might let you do an odd job or two in order to pay for your meal. We are the businesses that will hire you and your friends even if you can't prove you're a citizen, have a driver's license, or even a social security number.

Downtown is the most fragile of all of Olympia's neighborhoods. As a former business owner yourself, you understand how temperamental that elusive 'customer' can be. You also know that you were not out to become one of Olympia's über-rich. You just wanted to do enough business to pay your employees, keep the lights on, and maybe feed yourself at the end of the day. While there may be a douche or two running a business downtown, the majority are just like you and me. We just want to keep our employees employed, and keep our doors open. Times are already hard, and customers are already fewer and farther between. We can't take much more.

If I were to critique your article, I would disagree on two points. First, is the presence of the homeless-by-circumstance, and the homeless-by-choice crowd does affect people's willingness to come downtown. Whether it's because they're ashamed, or afraid, those are dollars that are no longer going into the pockets of the businesses that historically support the homeless, the non-profits, and the culture of this city. Instead, those dollars go to Target, to Wal-Mart, and to the mall. I can speak from personal experience when I say I've been more than just politely asked for money on numerous occasions. I will of course admit that it is unfair to judge an entire group of people by the actions of a few, but I have also seen no self-policing within that same community. Imagine the respect the community-at-large would give the street-kid community if they were to crack down on those isolated incidents themselves, rather than making people resort to law enforcement. Imagine how much more willing these business owners would be to lend their voices to a measure supporting your community, when that community is working to support them in return.

My only other point of contention is that your article provides no solution. I agree with much of your criticism, but I was disappointed when there was no alternative provided. How do those who have not experienced homelessness begin to understand what a solution looks like? Education is a powerful tool, more powerful than protest (if used correctly). As I mentioned before, the owners of the downtown businesses are not your enemy. However, when we are already struggling to keep our doors open, any act by any community to further disrupt businesses is only going to put us off. Add to that a general sense of non-responsibility and lack of concern for the impact your community's presence has on our business, and you have effectively and actively alienated your most supportive, and powerful ally. Rather than saying "tough kitties", have that 'rational' arm of your activist community come up with a solution and propose it to the business community. Let us be a part of the solution, by giving us the solution to be a part of. Our businesses are like our children, and even a perceived threat can put our backs up. Make a good-faith effort to meet us halfway, and you may be surprised how willing we are to listen.

So in conclusion, I can only reassert that the business community of downtown is *not* your enemy. Whether it's due to ignorance (willful or otherwise), we support your community more than you might think. All we want is to be part of the solution, so that everyone can get what they want. What that solution looks like, and how it should be implemented, is going to take a lot of work. But in the meantime, it will only work to your community's benefit to begin showing these owners the respect they have earned. Maybe find a more out-of-the-way place to hang out? Call out members of your community who are being dicks and not respecting people's right to say no. Try not to take advantage of the kindness of those business who still treat you like human beings. We can do this, but we have to work together. Protests, signs, and bullhorns have their place, but only as a last resort. If your goal is to change the mind of the City Council, punishing the businesses is not the way. We may be the only allies you have left.

- anonymous downtown business owner

PS: I have chosen to leave my identity out of the e-mail for the safety and security of myself, my employees, and my business. However, if you feel that a genuine effort can be made to find common ground, I have shared this response with contacts within the business community who have the power and connections to make real change happen, and who can bring real decision-makers to the table. This is an issue we all want to address. If you, or connections of yours, want to meet further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We want to hear your thoughts!

We'd love to print your reactions to stories we've covered, or stories we haven't. Email us at olywip@gmail.com

Notes on nationalism

After reading an article a couple months ago or so about a prominent Jewish thinker's thoughts about the concept of Jewish Supremacy in relation to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, some of the following same and similar ideas have been rattling around in my head. (http://jewishpeacenews.blogspot.com/2011/04/implicated-and-enraged-nathan-schneider.html)

In the past month, my thoughts and feelings about these issues were re-focused when I attended a dialogue meeting between people who are interested in the Olympia Food Co-op boycott of Israeli products. At the meeting, which was organized by the anti-boycott group, "It's Our Co-op," and was held in the sanctuary at the local Synagogue, Temple Beth Hatfiloh, two films were shown. The first was an 18-minute documentary by Johan Genberg called "Challenging Power." Genberg is an organizer with the Olympia BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) group. The second film was a shorter 7-minute film by Kathy Strauss, which, in my opinion, takes a critical approach to the boycott and, for example, features the divisive tone and rhetoric of prominent anti-boycott activist and long-time Co-op community member, Tibor Breuer. Breuer referred to the boycott as "stealing." The film by Strauss is titled, "The Politics of a Boycott."

After the films were screened, there was about an hour or so of dialogue, during which the boycott, and/or the BDS tactic, was referred to as a "cancer."

The following are some related thoughts about nationalism, militarism, and foreign policy.

If some Jewish people need a state in order to feel safe and secure, then I don't know if it makes sense, or if it is even possible to correctly or successfully argue against those needs and feelings. It seems that those needs and feelings may be, or probably even are, inarguable.

But how a state—any state—conducts itself is important to others. How a state conducts itself, especially militarily and strategically prominent states like, for example, the U.S.A. or Israel, is important. It's important to everyone.

Does the state require forced re-location of an indigenous population? Does it necessitate the subjugation of others? If so, then these are unacceptable outcomes for any state.

That the State of Israel, the Jewish State, behaves in these ways—subjugating Palestinians, an indigenous population—is unacceptable. That the Jewish State behaves in these ways is a detriment to all people, very much including Jews.

Any nationalism, expressed in militarism, hostility, and national superiority, is undesirable. It is unacceptable in the U.S.A., and it is unacceptable on the part of Israel, which is the recipient of one of the largest military hand-out packages that the U.S.A. disburses.

Personally, I think it makes the most sense to view the behavior of the U.S.A., on a basic level, as taking advantage of the State of Israel. It takes advantage of Israel (and other states) in order to pursue its own policies of Manifest Destiny, and American Exceptionalism.

These thoughts and words are part of my effort to be in simultaneous solidarity with both Jews and Palestinians.

-Berd Whitlock

Berd is a long-time (5+ years) volunteer at the Co-op. He believes in the business model that the Co-op practices, and that if more businesses were like the Co-op in their values and function, and in particular their attention to the political, economic, and food justice: then the world would indeed be a better place.

The MAIA Murals

Connecting struggles and movements for social justice around the world

by ORSMP Steering Committee

A Tale of Two Cities - The Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project (ORSMP), on the corner of State and Capitol, is excited to announce the **MAIA Murals**, taking place in Gaza, Palestine in July of 2011.

ORSMP was co-produced by *Break the Silence Mural & Arts* and the *Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice* (RCF). It is an interdisciplinary, interactive, multisite public art project that involves people on a global scale. ORSMP transcends borders and recognizes the unique relationship that exists between the people of Olympia, Washington, the people of Rafah, and all those that struggle and work for justice. The ultimate goal of the project is to increase the strength and visibility of movements for social change in Palestine, Israel, the United States and the world through the innovative use of culture and technology. The project is a manifestation of the way communities use creativity in public space to cope with catastrophic and traumatic losses in resilient and transformative ways. Inspired by Rachel Corrie, an Olympian killed in the Gaza Strip in 2003 in a nonviolent act of civil disobedience, the mural serves as a reminder of the thousands of lives lost in Gaza and elsewhere, and as an inspiration for those who carry on the quest for justice, unity and peace.

The MAIA Mural Project is the next phase of *A Tale of Two Cities - The Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project*. In July 2011, 13 artists, art therapists, teachers, organizers, and psychologists from Olympia, San Francisco and beyond will be traveling to Gaza in order to collaborate with Palestinian youth and artists to design, paint and document *A Tale of Two Cities - The MAIA Mural Project.* We will begin our trip with an orientation and training throughout Israel and the West Bank, where we'll meet with Jewish Israeli and Palestinian artists and activists. Olympia's own, Andrew Meyer of RCF, Alicia Martinson and Hilary Hacker of ORSMP, and Sonja Wentz and Joanne Osband of the International Trauma Treatment Program (ITTP) will be traveling to Gaza as a part of this diverse group.

The MAIA Mural Project will be a series of collaborative murals focusing on environmental justice, specifically water, or "maia" in Arabic. The group will work with youth and artists in Gaza to paint murals at sites of the water purification units that the *Middle East Children's Alliance* (MECA) is installing at schools and kindergartens. The quality of water in Gaza has been eroded, particularly in the Israeli assault of 2008-9, creating a severe health hazard to which children are most vulnerable. "This project began when the Student Parliament at the UN Boys' School in Bureij Refugee Camp, Gaza were given the opportunity to choose one thing they most wanted for their school: *They chose to have clean drinking water*. MECA's partner in Gaza heard about this vote and, after meeting with representatives from the school and the Student Parliament, came to MECA to see if we could respond to the children's request for drinking water." (www.mecaforpeace.org/project/maia-project)

In addition to the murals at water purification sites, we will work on two large-scale public murals that will address the issues of the universal right to water and international solidarity. **The MAIA Mural Project** joins the *Estria Foundation*'s Water Writes Project, and will be the 10th mural in a series of 10 collaborative mural projects in 10 cities across the globe. The Estria Foundation is collaborating with youth and communities nationally and across the globe, from the recently completed mural in Oakland, California, to Palawan, Philippines, to Bogota, Colombia. The collaborative design element invites participants to "create imagery which reflects the relationship between the people and the water of each area." (www.estria.org/water-writes)

In addition to the murals at water purification sites, we will work on two large-scale public murals that will address the issues of the universal right to water and international solidarity.

You will be able to follow The MAIA Mural Project as it unfolds on blogs, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr! You'll find uploaded video interviews with Palestinian partners, giving you a real sense of our experience and all of the amazing individuals involved. This extensive documentation will become part of a growing global conversation about resources, water, solidarity, cross-movement building and non-violent resistance to oppression.

There are many ways that you can support this unique endeavor. Donations of any amount will help towards airfare and paint. All donations are tax deductible and can be made at olympiarafahmural.org (click "MAIA Murals") or by check made out to *Break the Silence Mural & Arts* and sent c/o Andrew Meyer at 6208 Chelsie Ln SE, Olympia WA 98512.

The MAIA Mural Project Café and One Big Drawing will take place on Saturday, June 18th from 5-10pm at Mariah Art School, 1403 Garfield Ave, NW, Olympia WA. Come enjoy a nice meal and drinks. Live acoustic music will begin at 7pm. Susan Greene, director of ORSMP and Ziad Abbas, director of MECA will introduce the project and share images from past projects in Palestine as well as the process of ORSMP and the MAIA Water purification units. There will even be face-painting and art activities! For more information about The MAIA Mural Project Café and One Big Drawing, visit olympiarafahmural.org or Facebook by searching Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project.

You will be able to follow The MAIA Mural Project as it unfolds on blogs, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr. There will be uploaded video interviews with Palestinian partners, giving you a real sense of the experience and all of the amazing individuals involved. This extensive documentation will become part of a growing global conversation about resources, water, solidarity, cross-movement building and non-violent resistance to oppression.

Project sponsors include: *Middle East Children's Alliance, Break the Silence Mural & Arts, The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace & Justice, The Estria Foundation, Gaza Community Mental Health Programe, International Trauma Treatment Program, The Indigenous Youth Delegation to Palestine and The Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project.*

No words...

I think most of you know my opinion of politicians in general. This time their perfidy has surprised even me. While the Democrats were sticking a pacifier in our mouths in public they were stabbing us in the back during the secret back-room deals.

Here is the background: The Senate passed SB 5873 which extends a huge sales tax break for Microsoft and four other large corporations. Expected loss to taxpayers could be up to $1 billion. It passed the House Ways and Means committee yesterday and being voted on today and is expected to pass. They can do this with a majority vote, but cannot reverse it without a super-majority vote, thanks to Tim Eyeman's initiative 1053.

The only tax break bill that seems to be moving is SB 5587, closes the property tax deferral program for low-income homeowners. It has passed the Senate, without the requirement of a 2/3 majority, and is expected to pass the vote today in the House.

Get it? After all of the work time energy blood sweat and tears we expended the *only* tax exemption they are ending is for *low-income home owners!* The Wall Street banks that destroyed our economy and are recording record profits as they steal our homes keep theirs. Cosmetic surgeons keep theirs. Country club members keep theirs. The only ones who lose their exemptions are low income homeowners. Rather than taxing the people who have the money they are gutting our schools, gutting funding for low-income health care, gutting support for disabled people, gutting funding for low-income families, so on and so forth and ad infinitum. They are gutting programs benefiting people who literally have nothing else and greatly increasing the wealth of the already wealthy. Children and disabled people are going to be thrown onto the streets while Microsoft and Wall Street banks continue to receive huge tax exemptions.

Keep in mind that while the Republicans promoted and supported these bills, we don't expect anything else from them. It is the *Democrats* who are doing this to us.

From POWER: "We have called, visited and written our legislators. We have rallied, sang, shouted, and even slept in the Capitol Building with thousands of Washington citizens forwarding the message to stop budget cuts harming Washington's families, children, immigrants, and workers. We have asked that the rich pay their fair share. They aren't listening."

POWER has some suggested questions for your legislators:

Why is it that the only bill ending a tax break that seems likely to pass, SB 5587, targets low-income people, when there are so many tax breaks to wealthy individuals (country club memberships, elective plastic surgery, etc) and large banks and corporations?

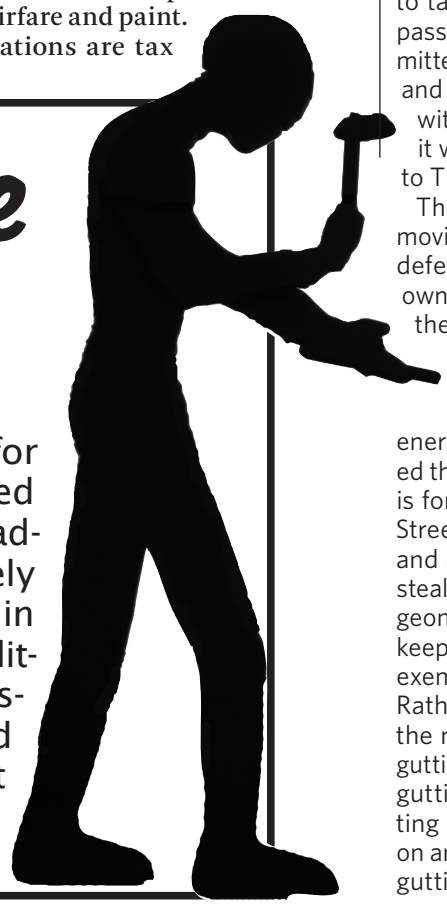
Why is this the only bill ending a tax break that does not need a super majority?

Why are legislators adding a new tax break, SB 5873, which they can't reverse without a super majority, while failing to provide basic services to the most vulnerable members of our state?

While it would be very good to embarass them by asking these questions, the time for questions is past. The time for expecting anything out of these people other than looting working people and poor families to benefit Wall Street and Boeing is past. It is time to take to the streets.

-Dana Walker

You could be a WIPster!



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Killing resolves nothing

by David Swanson

[This article was endorsed by the Veterans for Peace Board of Directors]

The plane I was on landed in Washington, D.C. on Sunday night, and the pilot came on the intercom to tell everyone to celebrate: our government had killed Osama bin Laden. This was better than winning the Super Bowl, he said.

Set aside for a moment the morality of cheering for the killing of a human being -- which despite the pilot's prompting nobody on the plane did. In purely Realpolitik terms, killing foreign leaders whom we've previously supported has been an ongoing disaster.

Our killing of Saddam Hussein has been followed by years of war and hundreds of thousands of pointless deaths. Our attempts to kill Muammar Gadaffi have killed his children and grandchildren and will end no war if these attempts eventually succeed. Our attempts to kill Osama bin Laden, including wars justified by that mission, have involved nearly a decade of senseless slaughter in Afghanistan and the rest of the ongoing global "generational" war that is consuming our nation.

Our senseless wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Libya must be ended. Keeping bin Laden alive and threatening assisted in keeping the war machine churning its bloody way through cities and flesh for years.

The Taliban was willing to turn bin Laden over for trial both before and after September 11, 2001. [http://warisacrime.org/node/54849] Instead our government opted for years of bloody warfare. And in the end, it was police action (investigation, a raid, and a summary execution) and not the warfare, that reportedly tracked bin Laden down in Pakistan. After capturing him, our government's representatives did not hold him for trial. They killed him and carried away his dead body.

Killing will lead only to more killing. There will be no review of bin Laden's alleged crimes, as a trial would have provided. *[WIP Note: There will be no review of the evidence of Osama's guilt that the U.S. has long claimed to have.]* There will be no review of earlier U.S. support for bin Laden. There will be no review of U.S. failures to prevent the September 11th attacks. Instead, there will be bitterness, hatred, and more violence, with the message being communicated to all sides that might makes right and murder is the way in which someone is, in President Obama's words, brought to justice.

There's nothing actually resolved, nothing concluded, and nothing to be celebrated in taking away life. If we want something to celebrate here, we should celebrate the end of one of the pieces of war propaganda that has driven the past decade of brutality and death. But I'm not going to celebrate that until appropriate actions follow. Nothing makes for peace like ceasing to wage war. Now would be an ideal time to give that a try.

Our senseless wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Libya must be ended. Keeping bin Laden alive and threatening assisted in keeping the war machine churning its bloody way through cities and flesh for years. No wonder President Bush was, as he said, not interested in tracking bin Laden down.

Ending the wars was our moral duty last week exactly as it is this week. But if the symbolism to be found in the removal of a key propaganda piece can be combined with the recent overwhelming U.S. support for ending the wars to actually end those wars, then I'll be ready -- with clean hands and with no nasty gleam of revenge in my eye -- to pop open the champagne.

Let's return to the morality of cheering for the killing of a human being. A decade ago that would not have seemed as natural to a U.S. airline pilot. The automatic assumption would not have been that there could be no dissenters to that celebration. A decade ago torture was considered irredeemably evil. A decade ago we believed people should have fair trials before they are declared guilty or killed. A decade ago, if a president had announced his new power to assassinate Americans, at least a few people would have asked where in the world he got the power to assassinate non-Americans.

Is it too late to go back 10 years in time in some particular ways? As we put bin Laden behind us, can we put the degredation of our civil liberties and our representative government, and our honesty, accountability, and the rule of law behind us too? Can we recover the basic moral decency that we used to at the very least pretend and aspire to?

Not while we're dancing in the street to celebrate death.

Imagine the propaganda that the U.S. media could make of video footage of a foreign country where the primitive brutes are dancing in the streets to celebrate the murder of a tribal enemy. That is the propaganda we've just handed those who will view bin Laden as a martyr. When their revenge comes, we will know exactly what we are supposed to do: exact more revenge in turn to keep the cycle going.

An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind. Yet people who have been blinded to/from violence think that they still see. The world looks to them like a Hollywood adventure movie. In those stories, killing someone generally causes a happy ending. That misconception is responsible for piles and piles of corpses to which more will now be added.

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Torture Nation

by Tom Wright
(as printed in the March 2005 *Works In Progress*)

"If you want a vision of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever." --George Orwell

Nearly a year has passed since the lurid photographs of Abu Ghraib first surfaced, briefly capturing the attention of the nation. Even to a public saturated by every imaginable form of transgression, the bizarre images of "Hooded Man," the piles of naked bodies and sordid sexual domination stood out, whether because they seemed like demons lurching from the Puritan unconscious, or just because they were so baldly at variance with the fairy tales through which much of the nation had been sleepwalking since September 11. But in no time, the opinion managers mounted the ramparts. Medallioned four-star generals were duly paraded before Congressional committees, hat in hand. Sober-minded Establishment figures were dispatched to contain the damage, fronting the various committees of investigation of the appalling practices that had been unveiled. It was all the fault of a few low-ranking reservists, lasting only a few weeks, we were assured.

Anyone on Earth potentially becomes an "enemy combatant," and faces a possible life sentence without charge or trial, without recourse to the Geneva Convention's protections, which our new Attorney General [Gonzales] has described as "quaint."

By now the official reports have all been completed, a number of important books have been published, and the release of a great number of internal documents has been compelled by the federal courts. We are an open society, for the time being at least, and the raw, unvarnished reality of the military's interrogation system is there for anyone to see.

That is both the good news and the bad news.

Good, because the fact of public exposure is ultimately the only real limitation to criminal violence by the state. And bad, if the public either chooses not to know about the crimes, or comes to accept them and goes back to the Shopping Channel.

Now the public, it is true, has a lot on its plate these days, what with the SpongeBob controversy, and with JLo's new fashion line coming out, so perhaps a short overview is in order.

The first paving blocks on the road to Abu Ghraib were laid on November 13, 2001 with President Bush's declaration of a Military Order. This order, signaling the extent to which the Administration would feel encumbered by international law or by archaic constitutional notions like the separation of powers, authorized unlimited secret detention of any non-citizen (arrested either abroad or on U.S. soil) based only on the President's declaration of grounds for suspicion. "Trial" would be without the right to counsel, using secret evidence, and would be held by military tribunal, i.e., by agents under Bush's chain of command. Secret execution would be possible, and no right of appeal to civilian court would be recognized. (See *Secret Trials and Executions* by Barbara Olshansky.)

As attorney David Cole argues in his book *Enemy Aliens*, such infringements of liberty are customarily first test-fitted on "aliens", then ultimately extended to citizens, as, for example, many elderly Japanese-Americans could explain. But in the present case, only five months passed before the order was extended to U.S. citizens, in the case of Yasser Hamdi. (One can only imagine what Bush might have done if he hadn't sworn to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution").

This bold assertion of what should be frankly called totalitarian powers was met with little opposition, or even much public awareness, and was promptly followed by a declaration in January 2002 that captured prisoners in Afghanistan and elsewhere were to be transferred to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and classed as "unprivileged combatants". As David Cole explains, the wartime power to detain "enemy combatants' is well established, but the Geneva Conventions, he writes,

> *"require that all combatants be treated presumptively as 'privileged', and held as 'prisoners of war.' The underlying rationale is that it is not illegal to fight a war, and therefore enemy soldiers are 'privileged combatants' and should not be tried for their combat actions . . . . Those who violate the laws of war -- by, for example, targeting civilians, or failing to wear a uniform that distinguishes them from civilians -- may be classified as 'unprivileged' combatants . . . .Where there is any doubt about an individual's status . . . the Geneva Conventions require . . . a hearing before a 'competent tribunal' to determine the individual's status."*

Where this gets sticky is in Bush's declaration of war, not on any particular nation or its soldiers, in or out of uniform, but rather on the noun "Terror." Thus anyone on Earth potentially becomes an "enemy combatant", and faces a possible life sentence without charge or trial, without recourse to the Geneva Convention's protections, which our new Attorney General [Alberto Gonzales] has described as "quaint."

For soldiers and military interrogators, the distinction between captured al-Qaeda operatives and the unlucky prisoner who happens to be in your prison cell at the moment is one that is quickly elided.

Human Rights Watch has detailed the sense of impunity among U.S. interrogators that began with the Afghan war. At least six detainees are known to have died in American custody there, although only two people have ever been charged in the killings, and the inquiries have stalled. In one of these cases, Jamal Naseer, a soldier in the U.S.-backed Afghan Army, was mistakenly arrested by U.S. forces, severely beaten, and killed in March 2003. The deaths of two Afghan men in 2002 were ruled homicides by American investigators. Internal Pentagon documents report the 2002 killing of another Afghani prisoner by four American soldiers, in which

(CONTINUED on next page)

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WIP History

there was no prosecution.

With the extension of war to Iraq, the scope of prisoner abuse had become endemic throughout the network of military prisons, and was descending to bizarre forms of cruelty and sadism. The best starting point for anyone who wants to explore this inspiring period of U.S. history is Mark Danner's new book, *Torture and Truth*. He includes 500 pages of documents at the core of the dispute: from the Alberto Gonzales and Jay Bybee memos on torture to the final reports of the Schlesinger, Taguba, and Fay/Jones investigations. He includes the affidavits of the Abu Ghraib prisoners, who describe the much-publicized cruelties imposed on them by Spc. Charles Graner and his crew. But he also provides context that usually gets ignored or downplayed. A big part of why people are willing to look the other way on torture is the assumption that the victims were trying to harm "our" troops. But Danner emphasizes that by the estimates of military intelligence officers themselves, between 70% and 90% of the thousands of people rounded up in Iraq are arrested by mistake. The prisons in Iraq are mostly full of ordinary people who did nothing.

Danner also includes the full February 2004 report from the International Committee of the Red Cross, detailing torture and abuse and given to the U.S. government, please note, well before the scandal broke. Danner notes that torture was employed even "under the gaze of Red Cross investigators, whose confidential reports . . . were handed over to American military and government authorities and then mysteriously "became lost in the Army's bureaucracy and weren't adequately addressed." Or so three of the highest-ranking military officers in the land blandly explained to senators of the Armed Services Committee on May 18, 2004. On that same day, as it happened, an unnamed "senior Army officer who served in Iraq" told reporters for *The New York Times* that in fact the Army had addressed the Red Cross report -- *"by trying to curtail the international organization's spot inspections of the prison."* (emphasis added)

The meaning of this is that military and civilian commanders were perfectly well aware of the use of torture, and had every intention of continuing its use. Just as they do today.

Danner's book went to print before the release in December (that is, after the election) of nearly 10,000 more pages of documents obtained under court order through a Freedom of Information Act request by the ACLU, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and others. In their totality, they are an astonishing revelation of war crime, from prisons in Cuba, Afghanistan and Iraq.

In one report, a Marine said he and two others were ordered to kill three Iraqis in early April 2003. He said he was threatened with death if he did not carry out the order, which they did then carry out, dumping the bodies of the dead Iraqis in a hole. In another report, an Army specialist shot to death an Iraqi prisoner who had been "verbally harassing guards" in August 2003. Although an investigation found probable cause to charge him with murder, he was instead demoted to private, and discharged.

In addition to murder, a great many other atrocities are detailed. Prisoners are tortured with electric transformers. They are shackled in painful positions for days without food and water. Iraqi children are subjected to mock execution. One marine used a flame to severely burn a detainee's hands. Prisoners are "water-boarded" -- strapped to a board and submerged until they believe they will drown. Doctors are employed to tailor a prisoner's torture to specific medical conditions.

The U.S. military is in Iraq, not to spread the virtues of punch-card voting or high-fructose corn syrup, but to dominate the planet's central energy supplies. This it will do by any means necessary, employing whichever atrocities people will accept back in the "homeland."

One of the surprises in the huge document release was that agents from the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency and especially the FBI had been complaining about the prisoner abuse, beginning in 2002 and continuing through 2004. "You won't believe it!" wrote one FBI agent to a colleague. Agents assigned to Guantanamo complained of "strangulation, beatings, placement of lit cigarettes into the detainees' ear openings and unauthorized interrogations." One FBI official complained, "I saw a detainee sitting on the floor of the interview room with an Israeli flag draped around him, loud music being played and a strobe flashing." Another reported soldiers were "beating (a prisoner) and grabbed his head and beat it into the cell floor" until he was unconscious. Another one wrote in July 2004 "on a couple of occasions, I entered interview rooms to find a detainee chained hand and foot in a fetal position to the floor, with no chair, food or water. Most times they had urinated or defecated on themselves, and had been left for 18-24 hours or more." "On another occasion, the A/C had been turned off, making the temperature in the unventilated room probably well over 100 degrees. The detainee was almost unconscious on the floor, with a pile of hair next to him. He had apparently been literally pulling his own hair out throughout the night."

Of 137 people who have faced disciplinary action, only 14 have been convicted by courts-martial. Forty-six faced only demotion or fines. A Marine that performed torture with electricity was sentenced to one year's confinement, and the mock execution of children earned only 30 days' hard labor. Even in the Abu Ghraib scandal, while one investigation named the two top officers at the prison and 34 military intelligence soldiers, only three faced punishment, and the two officers weren't charged.

Apparently none of this was really torture. Now, the 1987 Convention Against Torture bars the U.S. government from "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession . . . " But thanks to Bush's top law enforcement officer, we now understand that pain is actually not "severe" unless it is "of an intensity akin to that which accompanies serious physical injury such as death or organ failure."

Welcome to the Torture State.

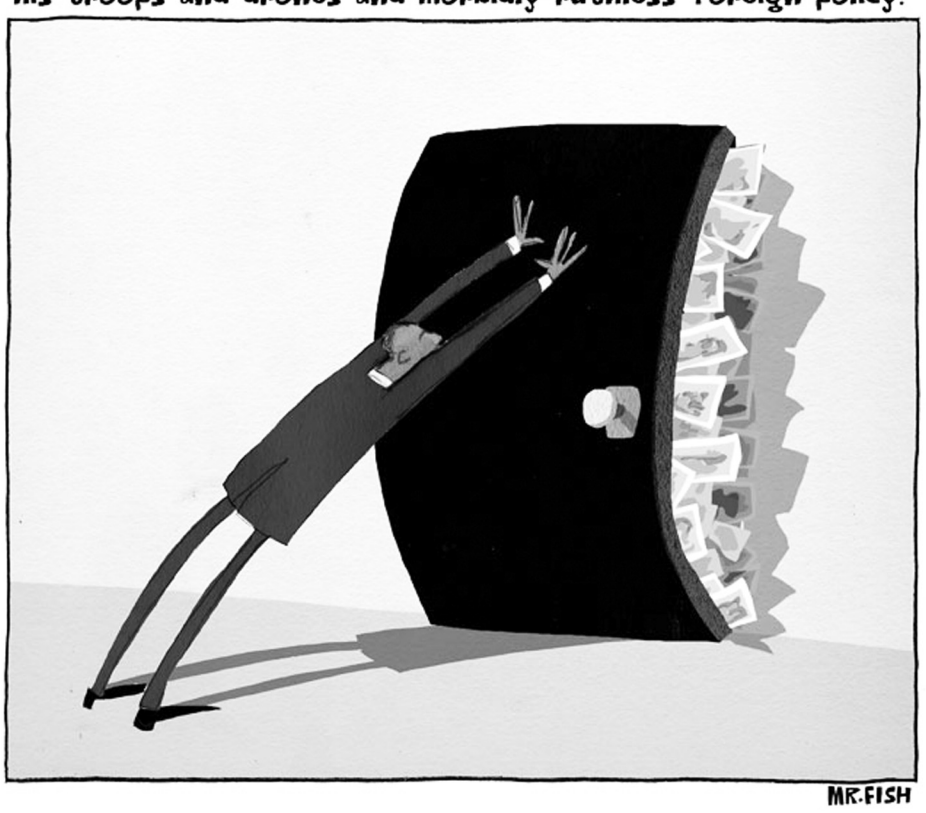
Of course, the U.S. government has supported, financed and directed torture for a long time. It has propped up torture states in Iran, Iraq, Israel and Indonesia, and that's just the I's. But it used to have to keep it at arm's length, to keep the U.S. public in the dark. What's new is that it has become normalized.

And there's no retreat here to the comfy feeling that all will be fine again when we get the Dems back in power. John Kerry and his party are guilty too. As Naomi Klein said, Kerry gave Bush the gift of impunity. If it had mattered to the Democrats, they could have run a campaign that impeded the apparatus of torture and the growing violence and lawlessness of the American state. But that was not as important as their desire to "win," so they kept silent about the atrocities, and vowed an expansion of the war.

Meanwhile, we live under one-party domination with an enfeebled "opposition" party trying to appeal to the snake-handling and clinic-burning crowd before the next election. And the U.S. military is in Iraq, not to spread the virtues of punch-card voting or high-fructose corn syrup, but to dominate the planet's central energy supplies. This it will do by any means necessary, employing torture, leveling more Fallujahs, or whichever atrocities people will accept back in the "homeland."

In the coming years, world resources such as oil, natural gas and fresh water will decline amidst over-consumption and environmental despoliation. As competition for these resources intensifies, the technological means of surveillance, control and physical domination will increase in sophistication, and will be employed by those sectors of society able to use them. These changes we accept by degrees. And we have just passed through one of them. We can only hope that there will be a corresponding evolution along a moral dimension in the complex world we are bequeathing to our children.

Barack Obama not wanting to show the gory picture of the dead Osama bin Laden because the United States is classier than that – instead he decides to file it away with all the other gory pictures he doesn't want the public to see, like the ones of all the people his administration is torturing and the ones of all the dead American soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan and the many more murdered civilians killed by his troops and drones and morbidly ruthless foreign policy.



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Setting the record straight on torture

In the wake of bin Laden's death, supporters of torture were quick to claim that so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" brought down the terrorist leader. However, they never elaborated on their reasoning any further than "We tortured people, and we eventually found Osama [10 years later]." It's important to set the record straight, now, before their revisions become history.

Torture did not find Osama - Bush cabinet members have claimed that the waterboarding of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed brought out the name of bin Laden's courier. However, John McCain looked into these claims, noting, "With so much misinformation being fed into such an essential public debate as this one, I asked the Director of Central Intelligence, Leon Panetta, for the facts." In fact, CIA reports show the first mention of the courier's name came from someone else who was interrogated by a different country (a country that's believed to not use torture). McCain found that the best information about the courier "was obtained through standard, non-coercive means, not through any 'enhanced interrogation technique.'"

Torture is not effective - Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was subjected to months of waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation techniques," but he never volunteered the name of bin Laden's courier. When confronted with the name, KSM provided information on the courier, however, all the information was either false (that he had moved to Peshawar, that he no longer worked with al-Qaeda) or simply confirmed what the interrogators already knew (that the courier existed and used an alias). In fact, torture has been shown to often produce false information, as many people will simply say anything to make the torture stop.

Torture is not "necessary" - Saddam Hussein was found without torture. Several al-Qaeda leaders were found without torture. If one is inclined to speculate, as defenders of torture have openly done, one could just as easily say torture of prisoners, and the resources wasted tracking false leads, in lieu of effective and established interrogation techniques, was the reason it took nearly 10 whole years to find bin Laden.

Innocent people are often subjected to torture without any trial - The Red Cross estimated that 70-90% of torture victims in Iraq were picked up at random, and tortured over nothing they had actually done. Also, innocent people are falsely implicated through torture. Maher Arar was falsely implicated through the torture of others who it was later learned simply said what their captors wanted to hear to make the torture stop.

Torture recruits our adversaries - The Department of Defense tracked statistics gathered from foreign nationals captured in Iraq, who had gone there to fight against U.S. forces. For their motivation, most of them cited the torture and prisoner abuse in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo.

Torture does not make us safer - In the future, Americans will be subjected to the same torture techniques, by forces that will use our nation's endorsement of torture and disregard for international law as a justification to use the same techniques on us.

Torture is illegal - Torture is illegal under Geneva Conventions III and IV. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United States is a signatory, states "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

And of course, torture is still immoral

A plea for the people of Gaza

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

The area of the world where the right to water is perhaps most severely abused is the Gaza Strip. The facts speak for themselves: Since 2003, no piped water has existed in Gaza. Out of Gaza's 145 wells, only 55 are functional. The sources of water that are available are hardly ideal. The World Health Organization has reported that 80% of the "drinking" water in Gaza is unsafe for consumption. Since the closure of Gaza's Public Monitoring Facility in January of 2009 the monitoring of water quality has stopped. This lack of one of the basic necessities for life has—as expected—created an ongoing public health disaster. Gaza has seen rises in typhoid fever and cholera—two diseases which occur when water supplies are contaminated with fecal matter, and—in the case of cholera—are treated through proper hydration.

The situation of water in Gaza is but one example of the many hardships that the people of Gaza are forced to endure. With a population of 1.6 million, 80% of the people are reliant on foreign aid, with roughly 50% of the population unemployed, and roughly 50% of the population living in extreme poverty—meaning they live on less than $2 a day. The root of these hardships goes back to Israel's ongoing policy to displace and exclude the Palestinian people from their own land—the most recent example of which is the brutal economic siege on Gaza.

Waged after Hamas won elections in the Palestinian Authority—which Jimmy Carter's Carter Center validated as free and fair—the blockade on Gaza has been a deliberate attempt by Israelis to wage "economic warfare" on Gazans. By controlling Gaza's borders, airspace, and seas—in addition to regular invasion by the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces)—Israeli elites have managed to prevent all but the most essential necessities to flow into Gaza, putting its economy on life support. Again, the numbers speak for themselves: The United Nations Human Rights Council reported that before the 2007 blockade, in one year Gazans exported 1,380 truckloads of goods. After the blockade, from 2007 to 2009, only 134 truckloads of goods were exported out of Gaza. After the 2009-2010 invasion of Operation Cast Lead until September of 2010 there was only one export of flowers out of Gaza. While Israeli officials clamor and condemn international efforts at Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, they themselves have been engaging in their own BDS campaign against the people of Gaza; it is a BDS campaign that is blanket, dehumanizing, and a brash violation of both the laws of war and international human rights law.

Waged after Hamas won elections in the Palestinian Authority—which Jimmy Carter's Carter Center validated as free and fair—the blockade on Gaza has been a deliberate attempt by Israelis to wage "economic warfare" on Gazans.

Fortunately, there are two rays of hope out of this morass of despair. The first is the announcement by Egypt to no longer support the former Mubarak regime's policy of enforcing the blockade on the Egyptian border. Egypt's new interim Foreign Minister, Nabil al-Arabi, described Egypt's support for the blockade as "disgraceful," and has agreed to allow the free flow of goods between the two countries. The second is the effort by international activists to break the siege on Gaza by sea. Last year, international solidarity activists sailed to Gaza with supplies and words of support. Their attempts to reach Palestinian shores were thwarted when activists on the Mavi Marmara were attacked with an "unacceptable level of brutality," killing activists in "summary execution" style, according to the United Nations Human Rights Council which investigated the matter. Despite this brutality people have not given up, and there are plans to set sail again. In mid-June a US boat to Gaza—fittingly titled the Audacity of Hope—is headed towards Gaza with other internationals. This freedom flotilla plans to break the illegal and immoral Israeli blockade, sending a message not only to the people of the region, but also the world, that human rights will be protected and international laws will be followed.

Currently, the organizers of the Audacity of Hope are looking for people to write personal letters of solidarity to the people of Gaza. The campaign is called To Gaza With Love; it is a reference to Alice Walker's idea that the radical power of love can create social change. It is the hope and desire that by tapping into this "radical power of love" the people of Palestine will be able to realize their long dream of a just peace on their own land, of being able to control their own lives, and of having the power to write their own futures.

If interested, please send letters of support to: LETTERS TO GAZA 119 West 72nd St. #158 New York, NY 10023.

Melissa Harris-Perry

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Adam Keller's Crazy Country Blog

by Adam Keller

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders.

What follows is an excerpt from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com.

Obama, Netanyahu and the 1967 borders

May 21, 2011

President Obama has made his long-awaited speech and uttered the magic number which some hoped and others dreaded he would mention – Nineteen Hundred Sixty Seven. And Prime Minister Netanyahu retorted with an angry outburst and total denunciation and rejection of the 1967 borders. Israel's newspapers all came out with banner headlines proclaiming "Confrontation!" and "Collision Course!" In the evening, Obama and Netanyahu met at the White House and made a rather pale effort to paper over the cracks and present the TV cameras with a friendly, smiling, handshaking façade – what today's *Wall Street Journal* called "The most undiplomatic moments of international diplomacy ever offered for cameras."

From the shallow perspective of 48 hours after the speech, how are we to gauge it? A historical breakthrough? A tawdry, soon-forgotten media gimmick? Or something in between?

It is already many years since the idea of a Palestinian state has become almost universally accepted in Israel, excluding only a thin layer of extreme-right diehards. Several Israeli Prime Ministers in succession talked of the creation of a Palestinian state as a positive and desirable event, notably including Binyamin Netanyahu who announced his adherence to the idea in the celebrated Bar Ilan Speech, soon after getting to power in 2009. Yet, with virtually everybody agreeing, the State of Palestine did not come into being and with every passing year it became more doubtful that it ever would.

Israeli politicians would have been overjoyed to recognize a supposedly independent state embracing the present areas of the Palestinian Authority, a collection of isolated enclaves surrounded on all sides by Israeli settlements and military camps.

The State of Palestine, as mainstream Israeli politicians conceive of it, lacks two ingredients indispensable for a theoretical state to become a real entity in the real world – namely, space and time. Israeli politicians – even and especially the more right-wing of them – would have been overjoyed to recognize a supposedly independent state embracing the present areas of the Palestinian Authority, a collection of isolated enclaves surrounded on all sides by Israeli settlements and military camps. Others, slightly more generous, were willing to grant the Palestinians a bit more territory, making for some territorial continuity – but still with Israel retaining control of the Jordan Valley, which constitutes at least thirty percent of the West Bank. And controlling the Jordan Valley, Israel could and would control all of Palestine's contact with the outside world, all entry and exit of persons and goods – in effect, a larger replication of the situation of siege which Gaza had been enduring for the past five years, (without even a sea shore which international relief flotillas could try to reach at great risk).

When Palestinians expressed a marked lack of enthusiasm for having a state so delimited and constrained, successive Israeli governments had a ready answer: "Let's talk about it." Negotiations, an ongoing Peace Process with glittering photo opportunities and handshakes, were good for Israel's international image, while deflecting pressure and distracting attention from unsavory brutality and the ongoing creation of settlements – "accomplished facts" on the ground. Reaching an agreement, not to mention its actual implementation, was an entirely different issue. Much better to avoid or fritter away any definite timetables and target dates (as was the fate of the late, lamented Road Map for Peace, which set 2005 as the time for a final status agreement between Israelis and Palestinians).

Anyway, the Israeli side increasingly reiterated that talking was in essence theoretical, as in fact there was "no partner" and the time was "not ripe." For example, the negotiations carried out for more than two years by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni were explicitly aimed at producing a "shelf agreement," which would be duly signed and then placed on a shelf to gather dust until conditions for its implementation "ripened." The reasons for there being no partner and conditions being unripe constantly shifted, with PMs and their aides and PR experts showing considerable ingenuity and creativity: Because Yasser Arafat was an arch terrorist and because his successor Abu Mazen was a powerless "chick without feathers"; because the Palestinians were divided with rival government in Ramallah and Gaza or because they had reached a reconciliation to which one party included terrorists; because the surrounding Arab World was ruled by dictators which did not represent their peoples, or because the Arab World had become unstable and engulfed by popular revolts and demands for democracy.

The demand for Israel to freeze the process of settlement creation in the West Bank, clearly made in Obama's first major Middle East speech in Cairo and placed at center stage in his administration's earlier efforts at peacemaking, actually served Netanyahu as a new ploy to endlessly delay and put off the substantive issues. Instead of talking about where Palestine would have its borders and when Palestine would come into being, there was an endless wrangle over whether settlement construction would be or would not be frozen, for exactly how many months, which exceptions would be tacitly or explicitly tolerated, and whether or not the freeze would apply to East Jerusalem.

It might have been different had Obama proven able and willing to put strong and unequivocal pressure on Netanyahu to freeze settlement construction without further ado. But such was not the case – there were two years of struggles, ups and downs and confrontations and confrontations and sensational headlines in the Israeli media. Obama did apply some pressure, but

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

Netanyahu proved able to apply counter-pressures in American politics, playing on the Democratic Party's shaky position in the 2010 mid-term elections. In the end, Obama gave up the point and ceased further efforts to enforce a settlement freeze. In the international arena, Netanyahu was saddled with responsibility for the collapse of the talks, but evidently considered this an acceptable price. Obama's less than glorious record in implementing what he proclaimed at Cairo two years ago should certainly be taken into account in assessing what he announced in Washington D.C. two days ago.

It was while Obama unsuccessfully grappled with settlement construction that Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad – probably the least charismatic leader in Palestinian history – conceived of a way to break out of the futile game of endless negotiations and negotiations about negotiations. In effect, Palestinians would take a leaf from Israel's own book and start creating accomplished facts of their own and fill in the blanks left by the recalcitrant Israeli politicians. Whether or not Israel liked it, Palestine would arise at a specified time, September 2011, and within specified borders, the 1967 borders.

Fayyad spoke openly and in detail about his plan – gathering international support for a crucial recognition vote at the UN, while building up state institutions on the ground and (to a limited degree) supporting unarmed protests and demonstrations by Palestinian villagers confronting Israeli soldiers and settlers.

It was a considerable time before Palestinians in general started to take seriously Fayyad's plan, and even longer before Israelis and the rest of the world followed suit. Eventually, however, the Israeli political and military establishment started to take seriously indeed what Defence Minister Barak termed "The Diplomatic Tsunami" awaiting Israel in September.

Netanyahu has obvious reasons to dislike the idea of the Palestinians going to the UN to ask for recognition of a Palestine in the 1967 borders, rather than going on waiting for Godot. He and his emissaries had been frantically running around European capitals – Berlin, Prague, London, Paris, Rome – trying with mixed success to get governments to oppose the Palestinian drive in the UN. It was to culminate with getting himself invited to make a speech at the US Congress – more of a home ground then virtually any other place in the world – and effectively pose a threat to Obama in the arena of internal US politics, gearing up towards the 2012 Presidential race.

Obama obviously disliked Netanyahu's planned expedition to Capitol Hill. But he also had his own reasons for disliking the Palestinian approach to the United Nations. Because the US, under whatever President, is used to controlling world events and using the UN as its subservient tool, and does not take kindly to somebody else trying to usurp that tool. And because a Palestinian statehood resolution in the UN might face Obama with the problematic choice of casting a veto – and finding the US in international isolation – or not vetoing and then facing the fury of Netanyahu's friends on Congress.

Obama already faced that dilemma in February, when the Palestinians presented the Security Council with a resolution condemning settlement construction, and the US emerged battered from having cast its veto, solitary against the unanimous Yes vote of all other fourteen members of the Security Council, including the United States' European allies. That was, in effect, the dress rehearsal for the expected September vote. With the real thing, the stakes would be far higher, the consequences from any US decision might be drastic and far-reaching indeed. All the more so with the Middle East in a state of revolutionary flux whose outcome none can predict with any certainty and with young Palestinians increasingly and effectively taking up the methods of grassroots organizing via Facebook, as they did on Nakba Day a week ago.

Clearly, Obama's interest lay in trying to preempt the Palestinian diplomatic offensive – and also Netanyahu's Washington venture. Hence, a high-profile policy speech on the Middle East, setting up a supposedly attractive alternative for the Palestinians, delivered just ahead of Netahyahu's arrival in the American capital and relying on Obama's strong position in American public opinion following the killing of Bin Laden. All of which meshed quite well with the need to present a clear formulation of the administration's policy towards the revolutionary upsurge in the Arab World, a policy often charged with being incoherent and self-contradictory.

Given all the above, what is Obama offering the Palestinians in exchange for halting the drive towards their appointment with the UN in September? What inducement can they have for once again taking up, instead, the route of negotiations – a route discredited by eighteen years of bitter experience since Oslo?

Taking the speech at face value, it can be said to include several conspicuous inducements, the most obvious being that magic number – 1967. "The borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states".

"Negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt". (A Palestinian border with Jordan means no permanent Israeli rule in the Jordan Valley, an outspoken Netahyahu demand).

"Palestinians should know the territorial outlines of their state".

Also the question of timing is addressed in a very coherent way: "There are those who argue that with all the change and uncertainty in the region, it is simply not possible to move forward now" (Netanyahu is conspicuous among those who so argue). "I disagree. At a time when the people of the Middle East and North Africa are casting off the burdens of the past, the drive for a lasting peace that ends the conflict and resolves all claims is more urgent than ever". "The international community is tired of an endless process that never produces an outcome". "The status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace".

With all of that, Palestinians would still have every reason to feel suspicious of Netanyahu. Even were he to officially accept the 1967 borders as the basis for the negotiations, there is every reason to suspect that once "Resumption of the Peace Process" is publicly proclaimed in a new ceremony and photo opportunity, he would find dozens of ways to wriggle out. For example, accept the principle of "mutually agreed swaps" but in practice lay claim to large tracts of fertile West Bank land, complete with underground water sources, and offer in exchange tiny bits of desert land with not a single drop of water. (That is what Ehud Barak, Netanyahu's Defense Minister, did when he was PM himself in 2000 – a major reason for the disastrous collapse of the Camp David Summit.) Or Netanyahu could make use of Obama's numerous references to Israel's security in order to make demands in practice nullifying the sovereignty of Palestine and amounting to de-facto continued occupation.

What is Obama offering the Palestinians in exchange for halting the drive towards their appointment with the UN in September? What inducement can they have for once again taking up, instead, the route of negotiations – a route discredited by eighteen years of bitter experience since Oslo?

Netanyahu could have placed the Palestinians on the horns of a difficult dilemma by agreeing to the principle of the 1967 borders, and agreeing to arrive at the negotiating table on this basis. But he chose not to. He chose the very opposite course – declaring outspokenly his complete and utter rejection of the 1967 "indefensible" borders (actually, on the one occasion when it came to a test, Israel defended itself splendidly from within these borders...). A vehement rejection of 1967, made from Jerusalem immediately upon hearing the speech, and reiterated at the White House while being seated at the President's side, and likely to be reiterated once again on Capitol Hill – in effect asking US Senators and Representatives to choose between their President and the Prime Minister of Israel.

It has been argued that accepting the 1967 lines – however insincerely – might cause Netanyahu serious trouble in his ruling coalition, even a rebellion by nationalist hardliners within his own Likud Party. This is likely true, but it is not necessarily all. To the extent that any politician can be said to be acting out of sincere convictions, Binyamin Netanyahu seems to be acting sincerely now. An adherent of Greater Israel, born and bred, he had been ready to dissemble and make tactical moves and seeming concessions. No more, it seems.

So, what next? Given the events of the past two days, the most likely prediction would be: more of the same. Calls by the United States and the international Quartet for a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which would go unheeded, as with Netanyahu's rejection of the 1967 borders there would be no common basis for negotiations – and given his record up to date, Obama would not be able to compel Netanyahu to change his fundamental position. And there would be more intransigent declarations and intransigent actions by the Government of Israel, violent confrontations of all kinds in various times and places (the next relief flotilla to Gaza is due within a month), an increasing international isolation of Israel and an increasing polarization inside Israel. A continued Palestinian drive to build up support in the UN. And finally, the September showdown coming, with no viable alternative offered, and Obama still facing the dilemma he wanted to avoid – to veto or not to veto. And then?

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Gush Shalom statement on Benjamin Netanyahu's speech before Congress

The speech of PM Netanyahu in the US Congress was composed of dozens of colorful gimmicks and empty cliches, talk of a peace which he does not intend to conclude and of a fictional Palestinian state which he has no intention of seeing become reality.

Netanyahu praised democracy to the skies, while intending to continue occupation rule over millions of people by main force, against their will. Netanyahu boasted of the freedom of religious worship supposedly provided by Israel at the holy places in Jerusalem, while the Israeli police has a declared policy of regularly barring Muslim worshippers from the mosques in the heart of Jerusalem. Netanyahu spoke sentimentally about the David and Goliath story in the Bible, while in reality the state of Israel had become a modern Goliath which killed hundreds of children in the three weeks of bombing on Gaza, and the role of David passed to Palestinian protesters armed only with stones.

In demanding a perpetual Israeli occupation along the Jordan River Netanyahu makes clear that what he calls a Palestinian state would be little more than an isolated enclave cut off from the outside world, with all entry and exit under Israeli control – in effect, a new version of besieged Gaza. Netanyahu spread promises to make "painful compromises" and dismantle some of the settlements - and immediately blocked the road piling conditions upon conditions designed to ensure that the time for compromises would never come and the settlements would remain in being and continue to expand, robbing the lands of their Palestinians neighbors.

Netanyahu should not be blinded by the applause in a Congress which remains the hostage of a power-hungry Israeli lobby. It is unclear how long will this lobby retain its power, and whether either lobby or Congress are truly willing to embark upon a direct confrontation with the President of the United States on Netanyahu's behalf. In his outspoken opposition to the principle of the 1967 lines with mutually agreed territorial swaps - the single route to peace which is agreed upon by the entire international community including the U.S. President - Netanyahu continues to dig in and burrow into his rejection of the chance for peace. His claim that the 1967 lines are "indefensible" is ludicrous, especially considering that it was exactly within these lines that the IDF gained the greatest military victory in Israel's history. In contrast, the settlements scattered throughout the Occupied Territories produce a blurred boundary, in fact a complete lack of any border, which the IDF finds it difficult to defend. The undoubted historical fact that Jews lived in these areas thousands of years ago can in no way change the fact that nowadays we are there as conquerors and oppressors, and such we will stay as long as a single Israeli soldier remains there against the residents' wishes."

The extremist position that Netanyahu presented, wrapped in rhetoric and cliches, constitutes a final closing of the door to renewed negotiations and an embarkation on a course of collision with the Palestinians and the entire world, towards the inevitable "diplomatic tsunami" predicted by Defense Minister Barak. In the longer term it may actually turn out that Netanyahu – the very man who demands of the entire world to recognize the principle of "A Jewish State" – will be the one who drives the Palestinians to despair of achieving their own state and into demanding a vote for the Knesset instead.

Speech from the Leonard Peltier rally

by Peter Bohmer

May 21, 2011

I want to thank Arthur Miller and all of those who have organized this march and rally and who worked so tirelessly and persistently for so many years for the freedom of Leonard Peltier.

Leonard Peltier is an inspiration for his strength and integrity for over 40 years as a member of the American Indian Movement, as a defender of the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation and for 35 long years as a political prisoner. He is in prison for us, for all people committed to environmental justice, to economic and social justice and for the right to self-determination for Native peoples. We are out here for him.

For his membership and leadership in the American Indian Movement (AIM), Leonard Peltier was targeted by the FBI and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1976 in a trial marked by continual misconduct by the judicial system. The 1960's and early 1970's was a period of peoples movements and of hope that another world was possible. It was also a period of intense government repression, break-ins into houses, causing divisions among people and groups, false arrests, infiltration of progressive and revolutionary groups, attempted and actual assassinations. The most intense repression was against Black, Latino/a and Native activists, and groups such as AIM and the Black Panther Party. Much of the repression was organized and carried out under the FBI's counterintelligence or "COINTELPRO" program, which officially ended in 1971 but never stopped.

Whites who stood up for justice were also targeted. For example, I lived in San Diego from 1970 through 1975 and was active in anti-Vietnam war organizing of GI's and civilians, and community organizing against police brutality and developers from an anti-capitalist perspective. I was targeted by the FBI and San Diego Police Department and Nixon's Watergate team by being shot at, many arrests for false charges, imprisonment, losing my job, heavy infiltration by various police agencies and the FBI in the groups I worked in. I was a victim of COINTELPRO.

There are as many issues of injustice today as they were in the 1960's and 1970's. We are living in a period today of high unemployment, with 25 million are unemployed; 1/8 of the white population is below the official and inadequate poverty line, and the rate for Latinos, African-Americans and Native people in the United States is more than twice that—on many reservations such as Pine Ridge close to 50% are below the poverty line. 1/3 of the world's people are poor and undernourished even though there is plenty of food.

More than two million people in the U.S. are in prison. Blacks and American Indians are more than five times more likely to be in prison than whites and we are supposed to believe that racism has ended. Who are you kidding? Hundreds of thousands of immigrants are deported from the United States or locked up at private prisons such as the Northwest detention Center at 16th and J in Tacoma for the "crime" of crossing the border to work.

In struggling for revolutionary change and in building bold social movements, we must never forget our political prisoners.

Health care and public education are being gutted by state governments and the federal government who refuse to tax the wealthy, who always have money for the military and prisons but not for human needs. In Washington State, higher education is being privatized as tuition covers the large majority of the costs. Corporations have rights, but not poor and working people. The U.S. is involved in even more wars today than they were in the 1960's and 1970's. Climate change and environmental destruction are happening every day.

Some Christian fundamentalists said the world will end today, May 21st, 2011. It hasn't and it won't. This belief, however, is no more crazy than those who act like and think our society can go on as we have been, with a capitalist economic system that sees human beings and the Earth as things to be exploited for profits; a system based on war that is more and more dysfunctional for the great majority of people of the globe and the U.S.; a system where inequality of income and wealth is growing daily under Republicans and Democrats; a system unsustainable for the Earth and its people.

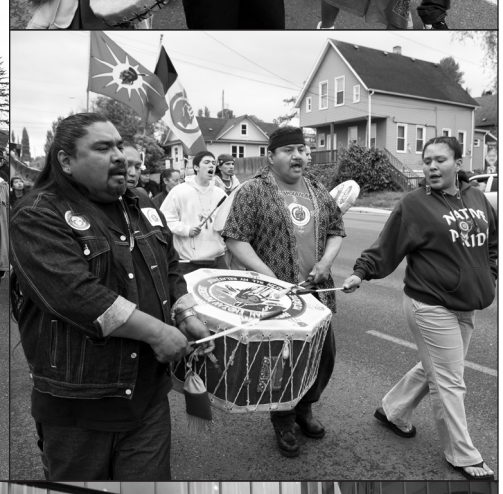
We need to build social movements that connect the issues of racism, of budget cuts, of mass incarceration, of climate injustice, of war and militarism, of women's and immigrant rights, to one that supports gay and lesbian and trans liberation, that struggles against poverty and housing foreclosures, that stops people from being displaced from their land, that targets capitalism as the cause of these interrelated forms of oppression. Let us fight the power and struggle in ways small and big for a different society, what I would call participatory socialism, where human needs are put at the center, where everyone has meaningful work, healthy food, free education, quality medical care and housing, where cultural diversity and equality and self-determination are the reality, not meaningless rhetoric. Where people have the power and corporate and capitalist power is ended. It is not that complicated. We can do it. Let us take inspiration from the 2011 uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Wisconsin and now Spain, where people are saying "No more!"

In struggling for revolutionary change and in building bold social movements, we must never forget our political prisoners. I am proud to say that Evergreen State College where I teach, as a result of student organizing selected Leonard Peltier as graduation speaker in 1993 and Mumia Abu-Jamal as graduation speaker in 2000. Leonard's health is not good. I urge you to demand his clemency and get groups you know to support this righteous request, to ask your friends, neighbors, fellow students, and co-workers to do the same. President Obama yesterday, May 20, 2011, granted pardons to 8 people. Demand he give clemency to Leonard Peltier.

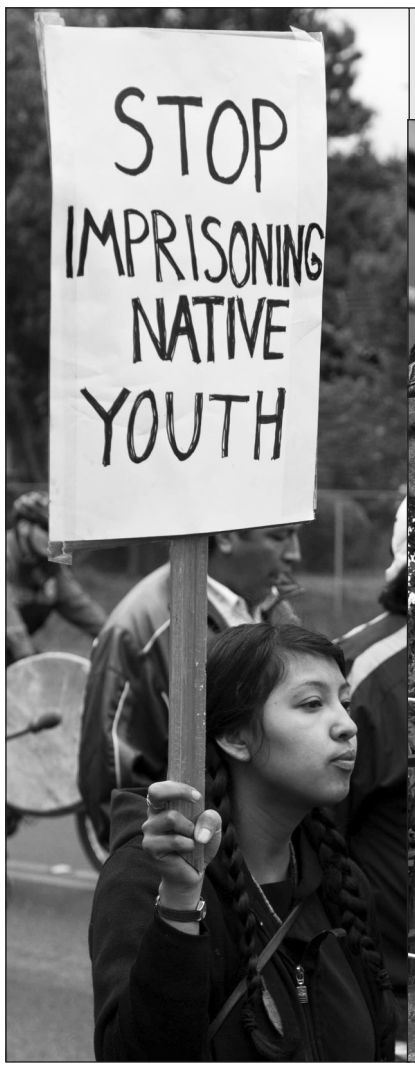
The word "solidarity" is meaningless unless we make it part of our daily lives and organizations, supporting political prisoners and working for their freedom – for relatively well known ones such as Leonard Peltier and less well known ones such as Lumumba Ford, a Muslim grad student from Portland who was sentenced to 18 years in 2003 as part of the phony war on terror. He has committed no crime whatsoever. Many thousands are targeted today for being Arab, for being Muslim. Learn about Lumumba Ford's case. Check out the Jericho movement at thejerichomovement.com to learn about other political prisoners and their campaigns for freedom and amnesty.

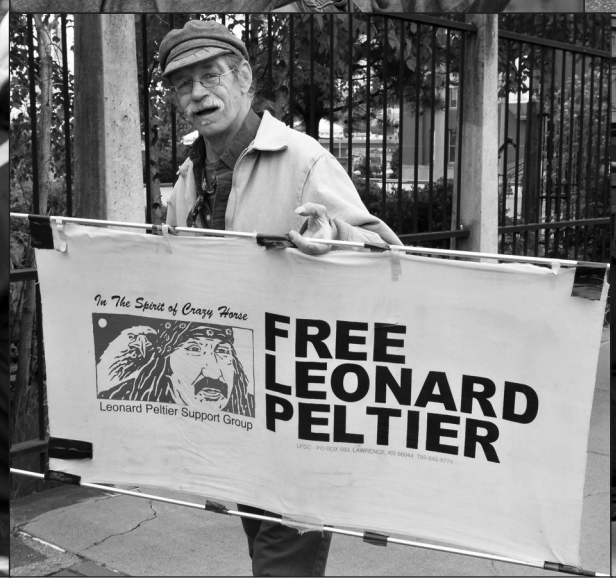
End the incarceration of immigrants and most prisoners. Free Leonard, Free Mumia, Free all political prisoners.

Power to the People!



Photos from the May 21 Regional Leonard Peltier march and rally in Tacoma - Photos by Elliot Stoller





Reflections on Ground Zero nuke protest

by Berd Whitlock

On the 15th of January this year, to honor the anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., six people including myself crossed the federal property "blue line" at the Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bangor. We are being charged in U.S. District Court in Tacoma with trespassing. We are Patti Bass, Carolyn Dorisdotter, Norm Keegel, Gordon Sturrock, Sam Tower, and myself, Robert Whitlock "Berd".

NBK Bangor, as the name suggests, is on the Kitsap peninsula. Bangor is home to what some experts estimate to be one-quarter of the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal.

Bangor is also the focus of dozens of years of protests organized by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, http://gzcenter.org, (GZ, or GZ Center, for short.) Ground Zero organizes three yearly protests: to mark the birthday of MLK in January, Mother's Day in May, and the anniversary of the dual WWII bombings of the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

Each protest has its own focus. For example, the MLK Jr. Day protest tends to focus on human rights, and racial and economic justice. The three protests also have points in common. Each includes a peace vigil, witness, and traditional civil disobedience—to "stand in the way" of the activities that take place on the base.

NBK Bangor is home to what most people believe is 8 submarines, each of which is equipped with the Trident II intercontinental ballistic missile system. Each sub is capable of carrying 24 Trident missiles, and each missile can carry up to 8 warheads. (That's a total count of 192.) There are two varieties of warheads: The W76 has an explosive potential of 100 kilotons, and the W88 with 475 kt. Either way, these bombs have incredible destructive potential. By contrast, the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were about 15kt and 21kt respectively.

One concern is that submarines are basically designed as attack machines. They are designed to lurk undetected near targets. It seems that submarines are basically offensive, and we believe that "the best defense" *is not* a "strong offense," but instead for the U.S.A. to be a good national neighbor — to be a respectful international community member. Being a good neighbor is the best defense against any potential aggression.

Here's a brief description of our action:

It was rainy that Saturday afternoon, on the 15th of January 2011. We were smiling and had lots of love in our hearts. Members of the Plowshares Five stood by with us. When we crossed the line, we approached and were approached by the military police. I spoke simply and respectfully, "We would like to speak with the commander." The shoulders of the soldiers on security detail seemed to drop.

The lead officer told us that meeting the commander was not an option. He informed us that we would need to leave or be arrested.

We held our ground in civil disobedience. I believe we carry a vital message about justice and peace, and that the command of the base needs to hear us. Our simple request to meet with the base commander was denied.

So we were arrested. And now we are charged with trespassing. All six of us were first time "offenders"—it was our first time crossing the federal property line during a protest. This seems to be the first time that first-time-offenders are being prosecuted for trespassing. There is speculation that it is due to the Navy ratcheting up tension in the wake of the Plowshares Five case. The Plowshares Five entered the base, and accessed a secure area, remaining on base for a period of several hours, much to the chagrin of the Department of the Navy.

Our next trial date will be on Wednesday the 1st of June, 1:30pm at the U.S. District Courthouse on Pacific Avenue in Tacoma.

Saturday 7 May 2011 — Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action Mother's Day vigil and traditional civil disobedience at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor. Photos by Berd Whitlock

EVERGREEN, continued from page 1

IMCOM" and the address "john.towery@us.army.smil.mil". An independent investigation into this metadata revealed that John Towery was an employee of the military at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, working for their intelligence fusion cell, and that John Towery and local activist "John Jacob" were in fact the same person.

When new technology is not involved, it's well understood that a public agency is required to provide requested records, regardless of how inconvenient the request may be. However, even though electronic records are subject to the same laws, some agencies try to portray electronic records requests as more ambiguous under the law. It's a relatively new standard, and some agencies will test to see if a citizen is even aware of their rights to electronic versions of those records. Some judges are also unfamiliar with the technical aspects of electronic redaction, and agencies and their lawyers may prey on that ignorance to skirt their responsibilities.

Alex Bryan told *Works In Progress*, "I believe Evergreen was denying me access to emails of their police department simply because they didn't want those records to come back to them later, say in a court room or a Board of Trustees Meeting when the police are trying to get new weaponry. The Evergreen police have a long history of handing over records on students to various law enforcement agencies which they knew, or should have reasonably known, would be a part of illegal spying on First Amendment protected activities. They also write things in their emails that they never thought would see the light of day, including information about me which they passed to other agencies about workshops I had put on or political events I had participated in. I don't think they would have tried to withhold these records and claim they couldn't deliver records electronically if I had requested something more mundane like a payroll list.

"Even though we live in a state with some of the most progressive transparency laws, there are still a handful of agencies that choose to break the law and keep their business out of the scrutiny of the public eye. Not only do they try to hide their own misconduct with this, but they also effectively block reform by making it difficult to research how different processes within the agency work."

Bryan attempted to work with the school for over a year on obtaining these records, including providing information on free methods of electronic redaction. In particular, he provided them with electronic redaction guides used by the National Security Agency, a federal agency which has much more stringent privacy and security requirements than the college. However, he still had not received even a portion of the records. Under RCW 42.56.550, if a plaintiff prevails against a state agency in a case of withheld records, the judge can award damages between $5 and $100 per day, per document.

In May, Bryan and the Evergreen State College reached a settlement which was agreeable to both parties. Bryan declined to comment on the terms of the settlement, saying "I would only settle if I was satisfied that the cost [of litigation] to Evergreen would discourage this kind of flagrant behavior in the future." He also said his original records request has been made smaller to better target the information he is looking for. While this is a victory for public accountability, the school might also consider the case a victory, because they successfully delayed the release of these records for a year and a half, in which time the political relevance of some records may have expired.

Bryan had encouraging words for others who are interested in filing public records requests. "If you write a public records request, you might expose embezzlement of taxpayer money, police corruption, or illegal spying on activists. Even if you don't, you still might find interesting historical data and you'll help to make sure agencies take records requests seriously. It's about as easy as writing a letter to your legislator."

Tips for filing records requests:

Provided by Alex Bryan

-The law governing records requests is RCW 42.56, which you can look up online if you have any questions.

-Every state, municipal, and local agency is subject to the records act. You can get records from the Olympia Police Department, Snohomish County, or all the way up to the Department of Revenue.

-Some records are exempt such as records which would hurt somebody's privacy if released (what books they checked out at a library or their home address), records which would hamper the effectiveness of law enforcement (names of undercover officers), names of victims of sexual crimes, etc.

-Records which are not exempt include phone lists for state agencies, emails, police reports, payroll lists including salaries, communications between agencies, lists of who got traffic tickets in your area, and names of police officers and their badge numbers.

-Agencies can only charge you for the cost of duplicating the record, not for the time to search for it. Many of them will provide them to you in electronic format upon request, saving you the per-page fee of a copier.

-Consider that it does cost agencies time and money to respond to requests. Make your requests as specific as possible to make it easier on the agency to get your records faster. Request the record you're looking for, not the *information* you're looking for.

-As you start making more records requests, you will develop relationships with different agencies. Some are very helpful and cooperative while others will require more strong-arm tactics.

-The Attorney General's Open Government website has good information, including a basic intro to making requests: http://www.atg.wa.gov/Records.aspx

-Louis Bloom has amassed quite a collection of payroll and other records for a dizzying amount of agencies. What you're looking for may very well be located at his website, lbloom.net

-If you need help getting your records requests together or filing appeals, I'm happy to help you out. Just email bryale11{at}evergreen.edu. Seriously, I'm a nice guy.

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Ayn Rand, inspiration to right-wing leaders, was a big admirer of serial killer

by Mark Ames,
The eXiled Online

There's something deeply unsettling about living in a country where millions of people froth at the mouth at the idea of giving health care to the tens of millions of Americans who don't have it, or who take pleasure at the thought of privatizing and slashing bedrock social programs like Social Security or Medicare. It might not be so hard to stomach if other Western countries also had a large, vocal chunk of the population that thought like this, but the U.S. is seemingly the only place where right-wing elites can openly share their distaste for the working poor. Where do they find their philosophical justification for this kind of attitude?

It turns out, you can trace much of this thinking back to Ayn Rand, a popular cult-philosopher who exerts a huge influence over much of the right-wing and libertarian crowd, but whose influence is only starting to spread out of the U.S.

One reason most countries don't find the time to embrace Ayn Rand's thinking is that she is a textbook sociopath. In her notebooks, Ayn Rand worshiped a notorious serial murderer-dismemberer, and used this killer as an early model for the type of "ideal man" she promoted in her more famous books. These ideas were later picked up on and put into play by major right-wing figures of the past half decade, including the key architects of America's most recent economic catastrophe – former Fed Chair Alan Greenspan and SEC Commissioner Chris Cox – along with other notable right-wing Republicans such as Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Rush Limbaugh and South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford.

The loudest of all the Republicans, right-wing attack-dog pundits and the Teabagger mobs fighting to kill health care reform and eviscerate "entitlement programs" increasingly hold up Ayn Rand as their guru. Sales of her books have soared in the past couple of years; one poll ranked *Atlas Shrugged* as the second most influential book of the 20th century, after the Bible.

The best way to get to the bottom of Ayn Rand's beliefs is to take a look at how she developed the superhero of her novel *Atlas Shrugged*, John Galt. Back in the late 1920s, as Ayn Rand was working out her philosophy, she became enthralled by a real-life American serial killer, William Edward Hickman, whose gruesome, sadistic dismemberment of a 12-year-old girl named Marion Parker in 1927 shocked the nation. Rand filled her early notebooks with worshipful praise of Hickman. According to biographer Jennifer Burns, author of *Goddess of the Market*, Rand was so smitten with Hickman that she modeled her first literary creation – Danny Renahan, the protagonist of her unfinished first novel, *The Little Street* – on him.

What did Rand admire so much about Hickman? His sociopathic qualities: "Other people do not exist for him, and he does not see why they should," she wrote, gushing that Hickman had "no regard whatsoever for all that society holds sacred, and with a consciousness all his own. He has the true, innate psychology of a Superman. He can never realize and feel 'other people.'"

The U.S. is seemingly the only place where right-wing elites can openly share their distaste for the working poor.

This echoes almost word for word Rand's later description of her character Howard Roark, the hero of her novel *The Fountainhead*: "He was born without the ability to consider others." (*The Fountainhead* is Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' favorite book – he even requires his clerks to read it.)

I'll get to where Rand picked up her silly superman blather later -- but first, let's meet William Hickman, the "genuinely beautiful soul" and inspiration to Ayn Rand. What you will read below – the real story, details included, of what made Hickman a "superman" in Ayn Rand's eyes – is extremely gory and upsetting, even if you're well acquainted with true crime stories – so prepare yourself. But it's necessary to read this to understand Rand, and to repeat this over and over until all of America understands what made her tick, because Rand's influence over the very people leading the fight to kill social programs, and her ideological influence on so many powerful bankers, regulators and businessmen who brought the financial markets crashing down, means her ideas are affecting all of our lives in the worst way imaginable.

Rand fell for William Edward Hickman in the late 1920s, as the shocking story of Hickman's crime started to grip the nation. He was the OJ Simpson of his day; his crime, trial and case were nonstop headline grabbers for months.

Hickman, who was only 19 when he was arrested for murder, was the son of a paranoid-schizophrenic mother and grandmother. His schoolmates said that as a kid Hickman liked to strangle cats and snap the necks of chickens for fun – most of the kids thought he was a budding manic, though the adults gave him good marks for behavior, a typical sign of sociopathic cunning. He enrolled in college but quickly dropped out, and turned to violent crime largely driven by the thrill and arrogance typical of sociopaths: in a brief and wild crime spree that grew increasingly violent, Hickman knocked over dozens of gas stations and drug stores across the Midwest and west to California. Along the way it's believed he strangled a girl in Milwaukee and killed his crime partner's grandfather in Pasadena, tossing his body over a bridge after taking his money. Hickman's partner later told police that Hickman told him how much he'd like to kill and dismember a victim someday – and that day did come for Hickman.

One afternoon, Hickman drove up to Mount Vernon Junior High school in Los Angeles, telling administrators he'd come to pick up "the Parker girl" – her father, Perry Parker, was a prominent banker. Hickman didn't know the girl's first name, so when he was asked which of the two Parker twins, he answered, "the younger daughter." Then he corrected himself: "The smaller one."

No one suspected his motives. The school administrator fetched young Marion, and brought her out to Hickman. Marion obediently followed Hickman to his car as she was told, where he promptly kidnapped her. He wrote a ransom note to Marion's father, demanding $1,500 for her return, promising the girl would be left unharmed. Marion was terrified into passivity – she even waited in the car for Hickman when he went to mail his letter to her father. Hickman's extreme narcissism comes through in his ransom letters, as he refers to himself as a "master mind [sic]" and "not a common crook." Hickman signed his letters "The Fox" because he admired his own cunning: "Fox is my name, very sly you know." And then he threatened: "Get this straight. Your daughter's life hangs by a thread."

Hickman and the girl's father exchanged letters over the next few days as they arranged the terms of the ransom, while Marion obediently followed her captor's demands. She never tried to escape the hotel where he kept her; Hickman even took her to a movie, and she never screamed for help. She remained quiet and still as told when Hickman tied her to the chair – he didn't even bother gagging her because there was no need to, right up to the gruesome end.

What did Rand admire so much about Hickman? His sociopathic qualities: "He has the true, innate psychology of a Superman. He can never realize and feel 'other people.'"

Hickman's last ransom note to Marion's father is where this story reaches its disturbing end. Hickman fills the letter with hurt anger over her father's suggestion that Hickman might deceive him, and "ask you for your $1500 for a lifeless mass of flesh I am base and low but won't stoop to that depth." What Hickman didn't say was that as he wrote the letter, Marion had already been chopped up into several lifeless masses of flesh. Why taunt the father? Why feign outrage? This sort of bizarre taunting was all part of the serial killer's thrill, maximizing his sadistic pleasure. But this was nothing compared to the thrill Hickman got from murdering the helpless 12-year-old Marion Parker. Here is an old newspaper description of the murder, taken from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on December 27, 1927:

"It was while I was fixing the blindfold that the urge to murder came upon me," he continued, "and I just couldn't help myself. I got a towel and stepped up behind Marion. Then before she could move, I put it around her neck and twisted it tightly. I held on and she made no outcry except to gurgle. I held on for about two minutes, I guess, and then I let go. When I cut loose the fastenings, she fell to the floor. I knew she was dead. Well, after she was dead I carried her body into the bathroom and undressed her, all but the underwear, and cut a hole in her throat with a pocket knife to let the blood out."

Another newspaper account explained what Hickman did next:

Then he took a pocket knife and cut a hole in her throat. Then he cut off each arm to the elbow. Then he cut her legs off at the knees. He put the limbs in a cabinet. He cut up the body in his room at the Bellevue Arms Apartments. Then he removed the clothing and cut the body through at the waist. He put it on a shelf in the dressing room. He placed a towel in the body to drain the blood. He wrapped up the exposed ends of the arms and waist with paper. He combed back her hair, powdered her face and then with a needle fixed her eyelids. He did this because he realized that he would lose the reward if he did not have the body to produce to her father.

Hickman packed her body, limbs and entrails into a car, and drove to the drop-off point to pick up his ransom; along his way he tossed out wrapped-up limbs and innards scattering them around Los Angeles. When he arrived at the meeting point, Hickman pulled Miriam's [sic] head and torso out of a suitcase and propped her up, her torso wrapped tightly, to look like she was alive--he sewed wires into her eyelids to keep them open, so that she'd appear to be awake and alive. When Miriam's father arrived, Hickman pointed a sawed-off shotgun at him, showed Miriam's head with the eyes sewn open (it would have been hard to see for certain that she was dead), and then took the ransom money and sped away. As he sped away, he threw Miriam's head and torso out of the car, and that's when the father ran up and saw his daughter--and screamed.

This is the "amazing picture" Ayn Rand -- guru to the Republican/Tea Party right-wing -- admired when she wrote in her notebook that Hickman represented "the amazing picture of a man with no regard whatsoever for all that a society holds sacred, and with a consciousness all his own. A man who really stands alone, in action and in soul. Other people do not exist for him, and he does not see why they should."

Other people don't exist for Rand, either. Part of her ideas are nothing more than a ditzy dilettante's bastardized Nietzsche -- but even this was plagiarized from the same pulp newspaper accounts of the time. According to an *LA Times* article in late December 1927, headlined "Behavioralism Gets The Blame," a pastor and others close to the Hickman case denounced the cheap trendy Nietzschean ideas Hickman and others latched onto as a defense. The article begins, "Behavioristic philosophic teachings of eminent philosophers such as Nietzsche and Schopenhauer have built the foundation for William Edward Hickman's original rebellion against society."

The fear that some felt at the time was that these philosophers' dangerous, yet nuanced ideas would fall into the hands of lesser minds, who would bastardize Nietzsche and Schopenhauer and poison the rest of us. This aptly describes Ayn Rand, whose philosophy developed out of her admiration for "Supermen" like Hickman. Rand's philosophy can be summed up by the title of one of her best-known books: *The Virtue of Selfishness*. She argues that all selfishness is a moral good, and all altruism is a moral evil, even "moral cannibalism," to use

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

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her words. To her, those who aren't like-minded sociopaths are "parasites," "lice" and "looters."

But with Rand, there's something more pathological at work. She's out to make the world more sociopath-friendly so that people her hero William Hickman can reach their full potential, not held back by the morality of the "weak," whom Rand despised.

Rand and her followers clearly got off on hating and bashing those they perceived as weak. This is exactly the sort of sadism that Rand's hero, Hickman, would have appreciated.

The fear that some felt at the time was that these philosophers' dangerous, yet nuanced ideas would fall into the hands of lesser minds, who would bastardize Nietzsche and Schopenhauer and poison the rest of us.

What's really unsettling is that even former Central Bank chief Alan Greenspan, whose relationship with Rand dated back to the 1950s, did some parasite-bashing of his own. In response to a 1958 New York Times book review slamming *Atlas Shrugged*, Greenspan, defending his mentor, published a letter to the editor that ends: "Parasites who persistently avoid either purpose or reason perish as they should. Alan Greenspan."

As much as Ayn Rand detested human "parasites," there is one thing she strongly believed in: creating conditions that increase the productivity of her supermen -- the William Hickmans who rule her idealized America: "If [people] place such things as friendship and family ties above their own productive work, yes, then they are immoral. Friendship, family life and human relationships are not primary in a man's life. A man who places others first, above his own creative work, is an emotional parasite."

Republican faithful like GOP Congressman Paul Ryan read Ayn Rand and declare, with pride, "Rand makes the best case for the morality of democratic capitalism." Indeed. Except that Rand also despised democracy, writing that, "Democracy, in short, is a form of collectivism, which denies individual rights: the majority can do whatever it wants with no restrictions. In principle, the democratic government is all-powerful. Democracy is a totalitarian manifestation; it is not a form of freedom."

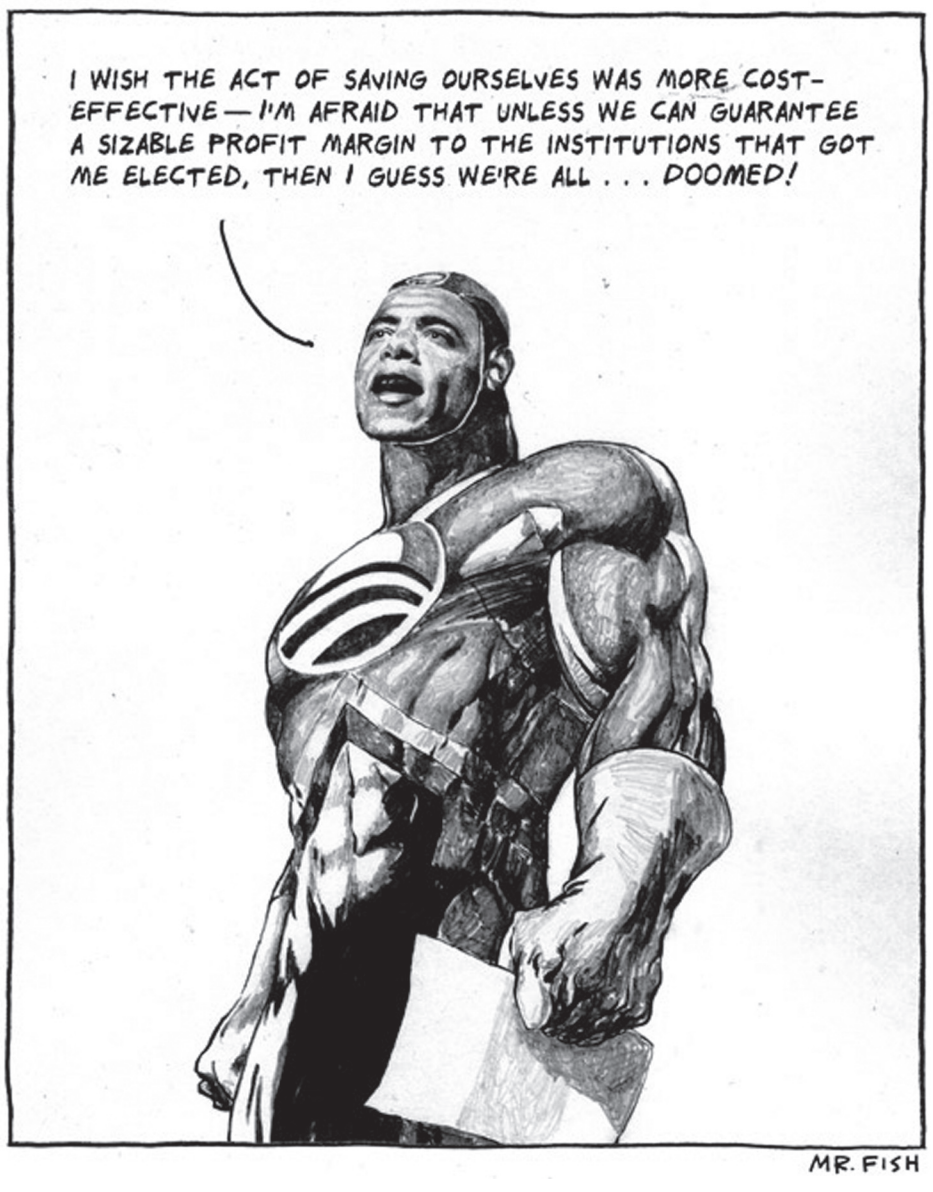
"Collectivism" is another one of those Randian epithets popular among her followers. Here is another Republican member of Congress, Michelle Bachman, parroting the Ayn Rand ideological line, to explain her reasoning for wanting to kill social programs:

"As much as the collectivist says to each according to his ability to each according to his need, that's not how mankind is wired. They want to make the best possible deal for themselves."

Whenever you hear politicians or Tea Partiers dividing up the world between "producers" and "collectivism," just know that those ideas and words more likely than not are derived from the deranged mind of a serial-killer groupie. When you hear them saying, "Go John Galt," hide your daughters and tell them not to talk to any strangers -- or Tea Party Republicans. And when you see them taking their razor blades to the last remaining programs protecting the middle class from total abject destitution -- Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid -- and bragging about how they are slashing these programs for "moral" reasons, just remember Ayn's morality and who inspired her.

Too many critics of Ayn Rand -- until recently I was one of them -- would rather dismiss her books and ideas as laughable, childish, and hackneyed. But she can't be dismissed because Rand is the name that keeps bubbling up from the Tea Party crowd and the elite conservative circuit in Washington as the Big Inspiration. The only way to protect ourselves from this thinking is the way you protect yourself from serial killers: smoke the Rand followers out, make them answer for following the crazed ideology of a serial-killer-groupie, and run them the hell out of town and out of our hemisphere.

Mark Ames is the author of Going Postal: Rage, Murder and Rebellion: From Reagan's Workplaces to Clinton's Columbine and Beyond*, and founding editor of The eXiled Online (www.exiledonline.com)*


I WISH THE ACT OF SAVING OURSELVES WAS MORE COST-EFFECTIVE — I'M AFRAID THAT UNLESS WE CAN GUARANTEE A SIZABLE PROFIT MARGIN TO THE INSTITUTIONS THAT GOT ME ELECTED, THEN I GUESS WE'RE ALL . . . DOOMED!
MR. FISH

BOOK REVIEW - *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe*

by E. Schmidt

Discrediting Mao has become an industry for a reason. As late stage capitalism metastasizes, imperialist armies rush out across the globe, and we accelerate past the global warming tipping point, the 21st century ruling class must inoculate us against remembering and calling upon the successes of socialism in the 20th century. However, the latest book produced by this well-funded project, *Mao's Great Famine*, by Frank Dikötter, is even more formulaic and ideologically-driven than I had expected. Reading more like a collection of atrocity anecdotes than a well constructed analysis, it is loose with data and weak on context, failing to discuss the famines recurrent in China during previous centuries. In keeping with this approach, the tabloid prose style is full of expressions like "plummeted," "rocketed," "beaten to a pulp," "beaten black and blue," "frenzy," "ceaseless," and "frenzied witch-hunt", making it clear this is not a very academic work. Even details such as the photo of the starving child on the original book cover are dishonest, this picture being from the 1946 famine in Nationalist China, not during the Great Leap Forward.

In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the average life span declined when socialism was overthrown, but there is little funding for books saying "Reagan and Yeltsin Killed Millions."

It is a fact that during the Great Leap Forward planning mistakes, political errors, drought, and the Soviet pull-out resulted in starvation and many deaths. Much of the newly retrieved data on this tragedy actually originated from teams Mao sent out to determine what was happening and how to fix it. But Mr. Dikötter's methods in compiling this and other data appears flawed. For example, Cormac Ó Gráda, a leading scholar of famine at University College Dublin, in the 15 March 2011 China Study Group, lays out how Dikötter uses an absurdly low "normal" mortality rate of 1 percent in order to maximize his death count. Ó Gráda says the 10 per thousand adopted by Dikötter is "implausibly low," and that "The crude death rate in China in the wake of the revolution was probably about 25 per thousand. It is highly unlikely that the Communists could have reduced it within less than a decade to the implausibly low 10 per thousand adopted here (p. 331). Had they done so, they would have 'saved' over 30 million lives in the interim! One can hardly have it both ways." In addition to deaths from starvation, Dikötter includes all diseases, accidents, and violence. This all in an effort to pump up the old original falsely developed figure of 30 million into a new lie of 43 million.

Using the same methodology of manipulating population numbers and stirring in anecdotes about failed projects and people mis-behaving, etc., you could apply it to the New Deal Dust Bowl and say "FDR killed millions!" In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the average life span declined when socialism was overthrown, but there is little funding for books saying "Reagan and Yeltsin Killed Millions." By contrast, Dikötter's book research was funded by five different foundations. As Indian economist Amartya Sen has said: "compared with China's rapid increase in life expectancy in the Mao era, the capitalist experiment in India could be said to have caused 4 million excess deaths a year since India's independence...India seems to manage to fill its cupboard with more skeletons every eight years than China put there in its years of shame, 1958-61." As India's four million excess deaths per year has continued right up to the present day, it could be said capitalism has now killed 240 million there. Where's the book?

One or a thousand or a million people dying of starvation is terrible. What kind of mind and what kind of agenda thinks it is not, and so has to keep on inflating it? Buried in the book are some assumptions and qualifiers to make the methods appear less dishonest. But one main purpose has been accomplished, which is to give the sound bite talk show hosts can yell at workers stuck in traffic: "Mao killed 43 million!"

In Mao's time, there were problems and errors from which lessons must be learned. But also during those decades, life expectancy in China more than doubled, and China achieved what the U.S. never will: a universal and egalitarian health care system. Industry grew by more than 10 percent a year during the Cultural Revolution, and by the 1970's China had solved its historic food problem. This revolution saved untold lives. And it can only be a revolution that ultimately saves humanity.

Mr. Schmidt lives in Washington State and is involved in anti-imperialist research and activism to free political prisoners.

Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe
Written by Frank Dikötter
Published by Walker and Company

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▸ **MASCOTS,** continued from page 1

caricature icon with their team name, "Savages."

Many schools accompany their team names with live mascots, generally White students dressed in mock-Indian attire. For 10 years, the Marquette University "Warriors" had a student wear an oversized mock-Indian head as their mascot "Willie Wampum." The Florida State University "Seminoles" use a White-dressed-as-Native mascot called "Chief Osceola," who rides a spotted horse and waves around a flaming spear. (With the negative attention surrounding racist mascots, FSU has asked sports writers not to refer to "Chief Osceola" as a mascot, but rather as a "symbol.") Previously to "Chief Osceola," the school used two mascots: a gymnastic mascot named "Sammy Seminole" ("Sammy" being an old racial slur against people of color), and in the 1950s and '60s, the school also used a mascot they called "Chief Fullabull." (Prior to these live mascots, the school played stock footage from Hollywood westerns at their pep rallies.) To this day, homecoming ceremony at FSU involves crowning a "Chief" and "Princess."

Some defenders of mascots try to claim alternate origins to some of these team names, but with little success. As some have argued, the Kansas City "Chiefs" were not based on race; rather, the team was named after Kansas City mayor H. Roe Bartle, whose nickname was "the Chief." Of course, that obstructively ignores the preponderance of Native-themed imagery associated with the team, including the arrowhead logo, "Arrowhead Stadium," Whites dressing up with mock-Indian attire leading fans in doing the "Tomahawk chop." But perhaps more telling, the mayor's nickname itself, "Chief," came from his "Chief" title in the "Tribe of Mic-O-Say," a Boy Scouts of America-related honor society similar to YMCA "Indian Guides" and "Indian Princesses."

Despite the Native-image logo, some will dismiss the Chicago "Blackhawks" as having actually been named after a locally-based military unit. While this is true, that military unit itself was named after Black Hawk of the Sauk Nation (died in 1838), who fought against White expansion into modern-day Illinois.

Genocide then and now

While some see genocide strictly as extermination of a group at large, that definition is overly-simplistic. By that narrow definition, the Holocaust would not be considered genocide, because some Jews were spared in exchange for their cooperation, because many had been corralled into ghettos, or because some were simply overlooked. In fact, genocide works on a number of levels, as acknowledged by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Convention lists, among other things, severe bodily or mental harm, forced sterilization, and forced removal and relocation of children as acts of genocide (each of which has been committed against Native peoples right up to modern times).

The process of genocide against Native North America continues today, through land appropriation and denial of sovereignty. Another common practice is the forced dissolution of cultural binds that hold a people together, through the delegitimization of unifying institutions, through cultural appropriation and other attacks on Native culture, and through the homogenization of the myriad First Nation traditions into one generic "Native" experience. While many don't want to acknowledge it, participation in Native-image mascots is a modern continuation of this ugly historical trend.

As FBI statistics show, Native Americans are more frequently targeted by hate crimes than any other group. Violence against Native Americans goes up markedly in areas with tense race relations, or in places where Native Americans attempt to assert their standing treaty rights to fishing and hunting. (To my knowledge, no children in YMCA "Indian Guides" or "Indian Princesses" were ever assaulted, spat on, or called racial epithets as a way of teaching them about the "authentic" Native experience.)

As FBI statistics show, Native Americans are more frequently targeted by hate crimes than any other group.

Physical and psychological harm

In 1997, students from Issaquah High School held an off-campus pep rally in advance of a football game against their rivals, the Sammamish High School "Totems." To psyche themselves up for the game, several Issaquah players stole a totem pole from a local park, and brought it to the pep rally. They were unaware that the pole they stole was called "Man who eats lots of fish," and was carved by David Horsley, an adopted member of the Snoqualmie Nation. The pole, along with two others, was going to be dedicated in a ceremony commemorating the Snoqualmie tribe regaining federal recognition. At the unsupervised pep rally, the students chopped up the pole, doused it in gasoline, and lit it on fire. Some of the football players then took off their shirts, painted their bodies and faces, and did a "dance" around the burning pole. (It should be noted that, while Sammamish's nickname was the "Totems," Issaquah High School's team name was the "Indians.") A disappointed Horsley, with a shaking voice, said of the incident, "The reason they could do this is a lack of knowledge about what [the poles] really mean. They can't respect something they don't know anything about." Soon after the incident, it was revealed that, years earlier, Issaquah High School had been asked by local tribes to change their "Indians" mascot name. The school declined, but had promised to allow local Native representatives to come and teach students about Native culture – a promise that hadn't been fulfilled.

While high-profile cases may show more pointed examples of harm done to Native peoples through the use of mascots, the biggest danger comes from those daily situations we hear nothing about. It is not uncommon for American Indians to be racially referred to by strangers or associates as "Chief" – a practice many Native American veterans have encountered in the military. American Indian peoples of all ages are often expected by non-Natives to live up to others' conception of "Indianness," which is often rooted in a superficial understanding subconsciously gleaned through Hollywood and through caricature portrayals. Many American Indians will even be personally put down for not reflecting those portrayals.

In 2005, the American Psychological Association issued a statement condemning the use of Native-image mascots. The statement read, in part, "the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities undermines the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality, and traditions," adding that the use of racist mascots "appears to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children."

Dr. Stephanie Fryberg, member of the Tulalip Tribes and Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona, studied the psychological effects of Native-image mascots on Native and non-Native peoples. She found that being confronted with Native stereotypes had a damaging effect on the self-esteem of Natives, and that Native people in environments where such mascots are present have a lower academic achievement rate. On the other hand, the study showed that Whites who were presented with racist caricatures had an increase in self-esteem.

Racism

It's interesting to note that some prominent institutions which use Native-image mascots have ugly historical trends independent of the Native mascots themselves. In addition to having the most overtly offensive team name in pro sports, the Washington "Redskins" were also the last NFL team to racially integrate, remaining all-White as late as 1961. Team owner George Preston Marshall (who chose the name "Redskins" in 1933) was an avowed racist. When asked once when his team would integrate, he proclaimed "We'll start signing Negroes when the Harlem Globetrotters start signing Whites." (The Harlem Globetrotters became famous because of racial exclusion in the NBA. Even so, there were indeed White players for the Globetrotters as far back as 1942.) Marshall considered the South his team's domain, fighting attempts by the NFL to add an expansion team in Dallas. In addition to having Whites dress in mock-Indian gear to serve as mascots, Washington "Redskins" halftime shows would routinely feature marching bands from all-White southern colleges, bearing Confederate flags and performing songs like "Dixie."

In 1961, the Kennedy Administration initiated the first forced-desegregation of a pro sports team, by threatening to revoke the "Redskins'" right to play at the new D.C. Stadium unless Marshall brought on Black players. White supremacy groups staged a protest of the intervention, with members carrying signs reading "Keep the Redskins White," but to no avail. In order to comply with the desegregation order, Marshall traded to the Cleveland Browns for Bobby Mitchell, a four-year NFL veteran. During his tenure in Washington D.C., Mitchell suffered the twin indignities of de-facto segregation in the city, where total strangers would walk up and spit in his food, while also being personally forced by Marshall to sing "Dixie" along with his White teammates at club functions.

The American Psychological Association found that the use of racist mascots "appears to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children."

Then there's the case of Ralph Engelstad, Las Vegas casino mogul and one-time hockey player for the University of North Dakota "Fighting Sioux." In 2000 Engelstad donated $100 million to UND toward the construction of a state-of-the-art ice hockey venue. This was one of the largest donations to a public university in history. However, halfway through construction, Engelstad wrote an open letter to the school president, threatening to withdraw all funding unless the school agreed to continue using the racist team name indefinitely. Engelstad also saw to it that the Native-image "Fighting Sioux" logo appears in thousands of places in the new arena, carved into seats, etched into glass and embedded into granite floors, specifically to make it very costly should the school ever decide to remove it. While being a staunch defender of his alma mater's Native-image mascot, Ralph Engelstad was also a Nazi sympathizer. Twenty years before the hockey venue incident, it was discovered Engelstad had been hosting private birthday parties for Adolf Hitler at his casino in Vegas. He also owned a collection of Nazi memorabilia, and commissioned a portrait of himself in a Nazi uniform, with the caption "To Adolf from Ralphie."

Winds of change

The first successful campaign to end the use of a Native-image mascot was in 1970, when Native students at the University of Oklahoma held a sit-in protest over the school's war-whooping mascot "Little Red." The school responded positively to the protest, by promptly and permanently ending the use of "Little Red."

Since the first success in Oklahoma, a long line of racist collegiate mascots have been retired. In 1971, the University of North Dakota retired their "Sammy Sioux" mascot. In 1972, after objections by Native students, the president of Stanford University changed the school's team name from the "Stanford Indians" to the Stanford Cardinal (while maintaining the color red). In 1973, the student body at Eastern Washington University voted to change from the "Savages" to the Eagles (once again retaining the color red). In 1974, Dartmouth College changed from the "Indians" to the Big Green. In 1992, St. Bonaventure University changed from the "Brown Indians" to the Bonnies. In 1994, St. John's University changed from "Redmen" to Red Storm, and the same year, Marquette University changed from "Warriors" to Golden Eagles (having already retired their "Willie Wampum" mascot in 1971). In 1997, Miami University in Ohio changed to the RedHawks, having been the "Redskins" since even before the NFL team. In 2000, Seattle University changed from the "Chieftains" to the Redhawks; the board was reportedly split on the issue until they discussed the matter with representatives from local Native tribes. In 2001, Colgate University, which had used a Native-image mascot in the past, went from "Red Raiders" to just Raiders.

At the same time that high-profile collegiate programs removed their Native references, hundreds of high schools and middle schools across the country have done the same. Many have done so voluntarily, while some only through administrative intervention. In 1997, both the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Dallas Independent School District banned American Indian mascots and team names from all public schools in their cities. In 2001, the Maryland State School Board passed a non-binding resolution urging schools in the state to discontinue racist mascots.

In 2010, the biggest change on the high school level yet came when the state of Wisconsin passed a law enabling students and faculty to challenge their school's race-based mascot. Any school which the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction finds to be in violation of using race-based mascots will be fined $1000 a day until the names are changed. Dozens of schools' team names were immediately challenged by students and faculty, with most of the schools already having selected replacement nicknames. While the first "mascot bills" started appearing in state legislatures 30 years ago, they have become more and more common in recent years, with Wisconsin being the first state to pass such a law. (In 2004, the California State Legislature passed a similar bill, however it was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.)

The NCAA intervenes

A major breakthrough on the college level came in 2005 when, after years of dismissing concerns over racist mascots, the NCAA (the governing body on intercollegiate athletics), acting on successive studies by its Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, finally intervened. Schools with mascots or logos

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deemed "hostile or abusive" are now unable to host postseason basketball tournaments, and are unable to use their mascots and logos in postseason play. In addition, several schools were explicitly named by the NCAA as having offensive mascots.

As a result, some of the schools named by the NCAA have changed their mascots. In 2006, Southeastern Oklahoma State University changed from the "Savages" to the Savage Storm. In 2007, after years of resistance, the University of Illinois "Fighting Illini" finally announced they would retire their logo and mascot, "Chief Illiniwek." (They were allowed to retain the name "Fighting Illini," because "Illini" could also refer to someone from Illinois.) And in 2010, the University of North Dakota ceased their attempts to legally challenge the NCAA ruling, agreeing to retire the "Fighting Sioux" nickname and logo; they have yet to pick a new name, but sales of "Fighting Sioux" merchandise are set to end on June 30, 2011.

While the NCAA ruling is clearly a step in the right direction, there's also a major loophole. Schools can retain their race-based mascots if they can get the approval of a tribal council. Thus, Florida State University can retain its "Seminoles" name (and associated racist pageantry), after having gotten an endorsement from the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma. Other schools have gotten similar exceptions (such as the Utah "Utes"), while yet others like the University of North Dakota have tried to get endorsements and failed.

While it's important to respect Native sovereignty, and the rights of tribes to determine their own destiny, in the long run these exceptions only exacerbate the problems of cultural dissolution that come with race-based mascots. Indeed, these mascots disparage not just one Native nation, but *all* Native nations. Despite the few tribal councils that have endorsed specific Native-image mascots (generally in a contested vote), Native America as a whole has come out in overwhelming opposition to these mascots. Additionally, the exception pits Native versus Native. David Narcomey, member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and of the American Indian Movement, expressed his own dismay at the exemption given to Florida State's mascot, saying "I am deeply appalled, incredulously disappointed ... I am nauseated that the NCAA is allowing this 'minstrel show' to carry on this form of racism in the 21st century."

Adding to the damage to the Native community is resultant tokenism, where a Native (or non-Native playing the role) is elevated as a "representative" based on having politics favorable to cultural appropriation. Thus, an ugly door is opened in the continued attacks on Native autonomy, where people unaffiliated with a given tribal nation, whose motivating concern is the preservation of their school's mascot, may look to influence a sovereign tribe's governmental makeup with an agenda not congruent with the tribe's well-being. The exemption rule also opens the possibility of hostility and retaliation toward tribes that refuse to condone the practice.

Stubborn resistance

More often than not, when a school moves to cancel its racist mascot, the move is met with fierce and vocal opposition from much of the student body and alumni. In 2003, when the Issaquah High School board voted to drop their "Indians" mascot, even with the backdrop of the totem pole burning a few years earlier, the move prompted a backlash, with White students staging walk-outs and protests.

Some reactionary groups try to "carry the torch" of their discontinued mascot for years. To this day, the right-wing student newspaper *The Dartmouth Review* stubbornly refers to the school's team as the "Indians," even though that name was abandoned in 1974. And while "Chief Illiniwek" may be gone, the University of Illinois still allows the marching band to play the music from the mascot's routine, and many students will do their own version of the mascot's dance.

When attempts to derail mascot-change fail, often Whites will turn to bigotry and violence. Many Native American students, while supporting efforts to end race-based mascots, have reported a rise in racial hostility toward the Native community during those efforts. And when the University of Illinois finally retired "Chief Illiniwek" in 2007, the city of Urbana saw a surge in vandalism directed at American Indian art.

Along with hostility and violence have come increased attempts at justification for the use of race-based mascots. The most frequent suggestion is that these mascots in fact "honor" Native culture and teach people about Native traditions. Three things should be noted: First, this is a preposterous suggestion on its face. Second, it reflects more "Friends of the Indians" thinking, given that the Native community continues to overwhelmingly oppose this "honor." Third, there was no talk of "honoring" Native customs back in the era of "Willie Wampum," "Sammy Sioux" and "Chief Fullabull." Only once Native groups began vocalizing their opposition to these mascots, and only once offending schools needed a way to justify their dismissal of Native concerns, did apologists begin trying to spin these mascots as some kind of "honor."

The NCAA's exemption rule for offensive mascots opens the door for hostility and retaliation toward tribes that refuse to condone a school's mascot.

In 2002, defenders of Native-image mascots latched onto a poll conducted by *Sports Illustrated*, suggesting that a majority of Native Americans supported the use of Native-image mascots. Specifically, *SI* concluded that 81% of Native American respondents did not think schools should stop using Indian-based nicknames, and that 75% of Native American respondents were not offended by the name "Redskins." The results of the poll were so inconsistent with other more qualified studies as to invite questions - questions which were never answered, because *SI* refused to provide the methodology of the study, including exactly how respondents were identified, or what questions they were asked. The only indication given was that the author selected regions with a higher-than-average Native population, called random residents there, asked for their opinions and asked them to self-identify as Native or not. As has been pointed out, the racial politics in these areas are such that Natives there are unlikely to be politically open to anonymous callers, and Whites there would be inclined to identify themselves as Native to advance their own politics. (Subsequent "studies" have used this same methodology of calling random people and asking them if they're Native or not.) The *SI* report attempted to justify their results, in the face of widespread condemnation of Native-image mascots by tribal councils and Native organizations, by suggesting "There is a near total disconnect between Indian activists and the Native American population on this issue." Thus, as *SI* attempted to portray the situation, Natives who engage in their community, in tribal governments and cultural organizations, are "activists," and Natives who disassociate themselves from their community bonds are "ordinary" people. By enabling individuals to self-identify as Native, rather than working with the legitimate Native community, defenders of racist mascots help exacerbate the cultural dilution of Native North America.

Another common reaction is the hosting of "public hearings" in lieu of actually implementing change. While discussion is positive, these debates only serve to cloud the issue by turning the issue of racist mascots into a popularity contest, and by instilling the notion that the voice of White students somehow carries weight similar to that of the Native community. These hearings also facilitate identity appropriation (and cultural dilution), where people who are not Native, who have never been identified by society as Native, and who are not subjected to the bigotry and discrimination suffered by Natives, will identify themselves as "part-Native" or "part-(Cherokee/Navajo/etc.)," and use that stolen identity to defend and facilitate racism against actual Natives. Once again, as far as Native mascots go, *we already have our answer.* We just need to start listening.

Moving forward

No matter how much some may resist change, the offensive nature of Native-themed mascots refuses to go away. During the 2010 NHL playoffs, when the Philadelphia Flyers were playing the Chicago "Blackhawks," the national TV cast zoomed in on a Philadelphia fan brandishing a mockup of a dead and severed Indian head on a pike. Meanwhile, fans of the Atlanta "Braves" and the like continue to do the "Tomahawk Chop" along with their "War chant."

While gains have been made in actually changing some mascots, major gains have been made in delegitimizing the practice of using Native mascots, especially in the last decade. In 2001, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issued a statement condemning the use of Native American images and nicknames as sports symbols. Additionally, the American Indian Movement, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Education Association, the NAACP, the American Jewish Committee, the Asian-American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, the American Anthropological Association, the Center for the Study of Sports in Society, the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the Rainbow Coalition, several Native tribes, and many other organizations have gone on record opposing the use of Native-image mascots.

Amidst growing opposition, and the growing number of schools retiring their race-based mascots, schools which resist change have become more isolated. Unlike the old days, where Whites in headdresses were common on the sidelines, today many schools which cling to their racial team names are unable to field an actual live mascot at games without drawing unwanted attention. In 2005, the hosting University of Oregon refused to refer to the visiting University of Illinois team as the "Fighting Illini," and in 1994, the University of Iowa announced that Illinois' mascot, "Chief Illniwek," was not allowed at games at Iowa. Several colleges, including Wisconsin and Iowa, have also announced they won't play any out-of-conference games against any school with an offending mascot.

While progress is being made on the scholastic level, professional sports' use of Native mascots has been a much different story. Ongoing protests have had little effect. A lawsuit brought by several American Indian groups which sought to nullify the trademark on the term "Redskins" on the basis that it's racially offensive (something the law allows) was struck down by a federal appeals court in 2009 on the basis that the group waited too long to challenge the trademark. (The Supreme Court refused to hear the case.)

Eventually changing pro sports logos and mascots is a necessity. Just as the athletes themselves have a major impact on children, pro sports portray to the public an authority on what's appropriate and what isn't. Many middle schools and high schools take their team names and logos directly from pro teams. And while a number of pro teams have changed their names and identities for other reasons, such as moving to a new city (or in the case of the Washington Wizards, because their former name, the "Bullets," gave a negative impression of Washington, D.C.), once again, Native Americans are held to a different standard.

If history has shown us anything, it's that the issue of Native-image mascots will never go away until such mascots are permanently retired. The only thing continued use of them today will do is deepen the scars, deepen racial divisions, and deepen the shame of our future generations.

For more information on Native-image mascots, and for a list of high schools in the U.S. who use such mascots, visit http://www.aics.org/mascot/mascot.html

Wally Cuddeford is a non-Native activist, journalist, and U.S. Navy veteran

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

You will not be able to stay home, brother.
You will not be able to plug in, turn on and cop out.
You will not be able to lose yourself on skag and skip out for beer during commercials because
The revolution will not be televised.

The revolution will not be televised.
The revolution will not be brought to you by Xerox in four parts without commercial interruptions.
The revolution will not show you pictures of Nixon blowing a bugle
and leading a charge by John Mitchell, General Abrams and Spiro Agnew
to eat hog maws confiscated from a Harlem sanctuary.
The revolution will not be televised.

The revolution will not be brought to you by the Schaefer Award Theatre
and will not star Natalie Woods and Steve McQueen, or Bullwinkle and Julia.
The revolution will not give your mouth sex appeal.
The revolution will not get rid of the nubs.
The revolution will not make you look five pounds thinner, because
The revolution will not be televised, Brother.

There will be no pictures of you and Willie Mays
pushing that shopping cart down the block on the dead run,
or trying to slide that color TV into a stolen ambulance.
NBC will not be able predict the winner at 8:32 and report from 29 districts.
The revolution will not be televised.

There will be no pictures of pigs shooting down brothers in the instant replay.
There will be no pictures of pigs shooting down brothers in the instant replay.
There will be no pictures of Whitney Young being run out of Harlem on a rail with a brand new process.
There will be no slow motion or still life of Roy Wilkins
strolling through Watts in a Red, Black and Green liberation jumpsuit
that he had been saving for just the proper occasion.

Green Acres, Beverly Hillbillies, and Hooterville Junction will no longer be so damned relevant
and women will not care if Dick finally gets down with Jane on Search for Tomorrow
because Black people will be in the street looking for a brighter day.
The revolution will not be televised.

There will be no highlights on the eleven o'clock news
and no pictures of hairy-armed women liberationists and Jackie Onassis blowing her nose.
The theme song will not be written by Jim Webb or Francis Scott Key,
nor sung by Glen Campbell, Tom Jones, Johnny Cash, Englebert Humperdink, or the Rare Earth.
The revolution will not be televised.

The revolution will not be right back after a message about a white tornado,
white lightning, or white people.
You will not have to worry about a dove in your bedroom,
the tiger in your tank, or the giant in your toilet bowl.
The revolution will not go better with Coke.
The revolution will not fight germs that may cause bad breath.
The revolution *will* put you in the driver's seat.

The revolution will not be televised, will not be televised, will not be televised, will not be televised.
The revolution will be no re-run, brothers.
The revolution will be live.

- Gil Scott-Heron
1949-2011

West Olympia's new farmers' market open every Saturday

Neighborhood-based market to highlight West Olympia producers

Press release

The newly-formed West Olympia Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 29. The neighborhood-based market highlights producers of Olympia's vibrant west side and provides a space for the many smaller-scale producers to sell directly to the eager public.

Along with fresh vegetables and fruit, products will include eggs, baked goods, flowers, plant starts, locally roasted coffee, crafts, and more.

The newly-formed West Olympia Farmers' Market is now open every Saturday from 9am-2pm, between Woodruff Park and Garfield Elementary on Thomas St.

The market is located in the bus loop of Garfield Elementary, between the school and adjacent Woodruff Park, on Thomas Street.

Having began as a vision of four West Olympia growers in the summer of 2010, the growers received overwhelmingly positive encouragement from friends, neighbors, and farmers. The group grew in numbers and quickly began taking steps to form a market.

"Olympia is clearly very supportive of organic farming," says farmer Aaron Varadi of Sunbreak Farm, "but it's been difficult for us to find a farmers' market that suits the relatively small size of our farm. I think this market will be a good fit for us, and for many of the other producers that call our neighborhood home."

Along with vegetables, fruit, and plant starts from Sunbreak Farm and Delphinia Community Farm, goods at the market will also include eggs from Township 18 Farm, baked goods from 8 Arms Community Bakery, sauerkraut and kimchi from Olykraut, locally-roasted coffee from Olympia Coffee Roasters, and homemade soaps and body products from Zeep Soap.

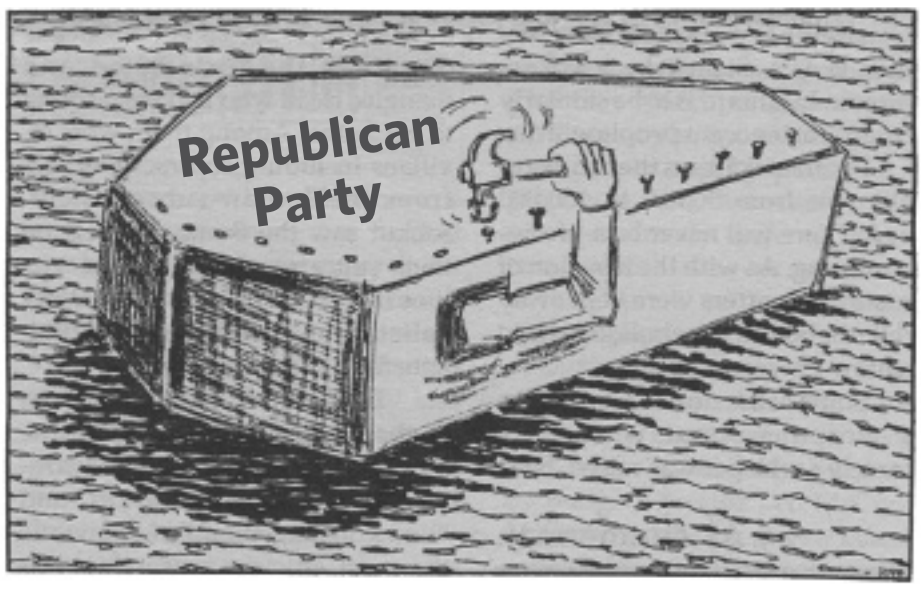
The market also provides a space for community groups to do outreach on topics of public interest, with a preference on horticultural and agricultural topics.

Based on the amount of support they've received so far, organizers expect the market to thrive. They'd like it to develop into a focal point for the growing movement in support of local agriculture and the economic and social vitality of the neighborhood. "This market is one part of the larger movement towards a more stable food-security future for Olympia," says Sarah Rocker, one of the market co-founders.

The location, which is nestled between Woodruff Park and Garfield Elementary, includes a playground, volleyball and tennis courts, and picnic tables all nearby. "In addition to generating more opportunities for local producers to connect with their community, we're excited to create another fun social space for folks to gather on a Saturday morning," says Rocker.

Contact:
Michael Kelly, Market Manager
West Olympia Farmers' Market
360.339.3329
info@wolyfarmersmarket.org
http://wolyfarmersmarket.org

A warning about Democrats . . .



The Democratic Party lied to the American public giving false hope that Obama would be a real change from the policies of the Bush administration. This caused people to turn back to the Republican Party in 2010.

Now that the Republicans are doing what they do best, attacking the Working Class, Democrats claim they're doing their best to represent us and are alone in *acting like adults.*

Don't you believe it! They don't give a rip about us. They gave billions to crooks on Wall Street, they continued the wars in Asia, "No Child Left Behind," they maintained Guantanamo, they renewed the Patriot Act, and they sunk Single Payer while "making love" to the insurance industry.

Forget political parties. Vote for those whose **voting records** best represent your political values.

Wikivoter update

by Mike Pelly

The Green Party of South Puget Sound is interested in operating a web site for helping voters learn more about candidates running for various governmental offices. The site initially will be focused on candidates for Olympia mayoral race and City council positions. The Wiki site is running, but does not yet contain information. We will host this site http://www.wikivoter.info/index.php?title=Main_Page for a couple months to see if there is enough volunteer interest. Right now any one can sign into the website and make additions and changes. The Green Party of South Puget Sound encourages readers of WIP to visit the web domain and see if you're interested in becoming a content provider and site moderator. If this sounds of interest to you, as a way of democratizing our electoral system, please take a look.

The next scheduled meeting of the Green Party of South Puget Sound will be held the third Saturday of June at the office of MIXX 96 radio station (located on Washington St. Between 4th Ave and State St. in downtown Olympia). There will be a potluck at 6pm and the meeting starts at 7pm. Hope to see you there, and hope you participate in WikiVoter.info.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: ☐ **INDIVIDUAL -- $35** ☐ **LOW-INCOME -- $25** ☐ **DONATION** _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Serving the social justice community. **WORKS IN PROGRESS** **PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507**

اولومبيا - رفح مشروع الرسم الجداري التضامني

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 2:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

Sunday, May 8: Representatives from Stonewall Youth's annual drag show will be on hand for a preview and discussion.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. http://www.lastwordbooks.org

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int'l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 - TCTV

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch over 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum has been meeting regularly for nearly two years. The group explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Led by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. Cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

"The Veterans Hour," locally produced by Veterans for Peace
Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9-10 pm

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998.
491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We're building a food garden! By summertime, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved (painting, repairs, canning, preparing supper, etc). Followed by Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org 754-4085

Community Special Events

Downtown Olympia Historic Shoreline Walks
Wednesdays, through Aug 31 , 6:00 pm
Saturdays, through Sept 3, 10:00 am
Sundays, through Sept 4, 10:00 am

Free guided walks for all ages led by Stream Team Sound Stewards on Wednesdays and weekends. Gather at the plinths on the boardwalk near the street to the LEFT of Bayview Thriftway (516 Fourth Ave. W). Look for large signs indicating the meeting point. For more info: www.streamteam.info or Patricia Pyle at 360.570.5841. Walks last about an hour.

Sensei Greg Lewis Self-Defense Workshop
Friday, June 3, 6-8PM (be on time!)
Lecture Hall Rotunda, Evergreen St College

Sensei Gregory C. Lewis is a long-time organizer and Black Belt self-defense instructor. His political roots go back to 1992 as a co-founder of the Mark Cook Freedom Committee, Seattle Mumia Defense Committee, Seattle Leonard Peltier Support Committee, and Copwatch 206; but he is possibly best known as one of the co-founders of the Federation of Black Community Partisans, which evolved into Black Autonomy International, one of the first explicitly Black anarchist/anti-authoritarian organizations. An advocate of self-defense, Greg has facilitated violence prevention workshops for activists around the country, including organizations such as Anarchist People of Color (APOC) and Anti-Racist Action.

At this workshop, you will learn basic self-defense strategies and tactics. Activists are especially encouraged to attend. This event is open to the public.

This event brought to you by SDS. To get text updates on our events, text "follow olysds" to 40404.

Facebook Event: https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=108425862578691

Flyer at: http://olyblog.net/sites/default/files/flyer_1.jpg

20th Capital City Pride festival
June 11 & 12
Downtown Olympia

The pride festival with a beer garden, food and vendor booths, and a kids area runs both Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12 from 11 to 5 p.m. The parade takes place Sunday at noon starting from the State Capitol building through downtown Olympia to the festival grounds in historic Sylvester Park.
R&B recording artist and Broadway star Shoshana Bean is the entertainment headliner. Bean is an Olympia native.
2011 grand marshall Jim Fouratt has appeared on the Colbert Report, is an author and a survivor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City, where he lives today.
For more information: www.CapitalCityPride.net

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, June 12, 4PM
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls, from the South Sound region of Washington State, addresses issues of immigration in our community. We believe immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.

Call 943-8642 for more information.

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
Saturday, June 18, 11am

On the 3rd Saturday of each month Bridges Not Walls invites your participation in a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, which was built on a superfund toxic waste site near downtown Tacoma. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and will return to Oly by around 5pm.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000 of taxpayers' taxes each night that it's full. Prisons and detention centers are a bizarre growth industry in the US! Bring coffee and food to support families that are visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 by Friday, May 15, for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Grays Harbor Institute Speaker Series -- Melissa Harris-Perry
Friday, June 24, 7 pm
Aberdeen High School, Aberdeen

Melissa Harris-Perry is Associate Professor of Politics and African-American Studies at Princeton University. Her academic research is inspired by a desire to investigate the challenges facing contemporary black Americans and to better understand the multiple, creative ways that African-Americans respond to these challenges. She is also an award-winning author and appears regularly on MSNBC and other media venues. www.ghinstitute.org

Bridges Not Walls Shelton meeting
Sunday, June 26, 4 pm
943-8642 for more information

Bridges Not Walls to meet at 4pm in downtown Shelton at the Mason County Literacy office. The carpool from Olympia will leave promptly at 3:15 pm from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol). 360-943-8642 for more information.

2011 Olympia Family Barter Faire
September 10th-11th
Shincke Road, Olympia, WA

SAVE THIS DATE -- The 2011 Olympia Family Barter Faire will take place in a new location this year (about 10 minutes northeast of Olympia). Gates will open at 8am on Saturday. Sunday is FREE!
For more information, contact us at www.olywa.us/olybarter or 360.866.1489.

COFFEE STRONG
VETERAN OWNED PRO-GI ANTI-WAR

Coffee Strong is a veteran-owned, veteran-operated GI coffeehouse. Veterans provide a safe place for soldiers to share the effects of disastrous wars, within 300 meters of the gates at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The unique coffeehouse welcomes soldiers with a free cup of coffee. There is access to the Internet, an informative library, and many referrals are available to community resources, including GI Rights counseling and Veterans Benefits. Free legal and educational resources are available.

Coffee Strong Events in June

Movie Night @ Coffee Strong
Friday June 3rd 7pm
Call for more details.

Soldier/Veteran Art Show @ Coffee Strong
Saturday, June 11th 7pm
Art and performances by local veterans and soldiers

Bowl-a-thon Coffee Strong Fundraiser
Sunday June 26, 2pm-5pm
Pacific Lanes, 7015 South D street, Tacoma
Set up a bowling team and help out Coffee Strong!

15109 Union Ave SW, Lakewood WA (253) 581-1565

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507

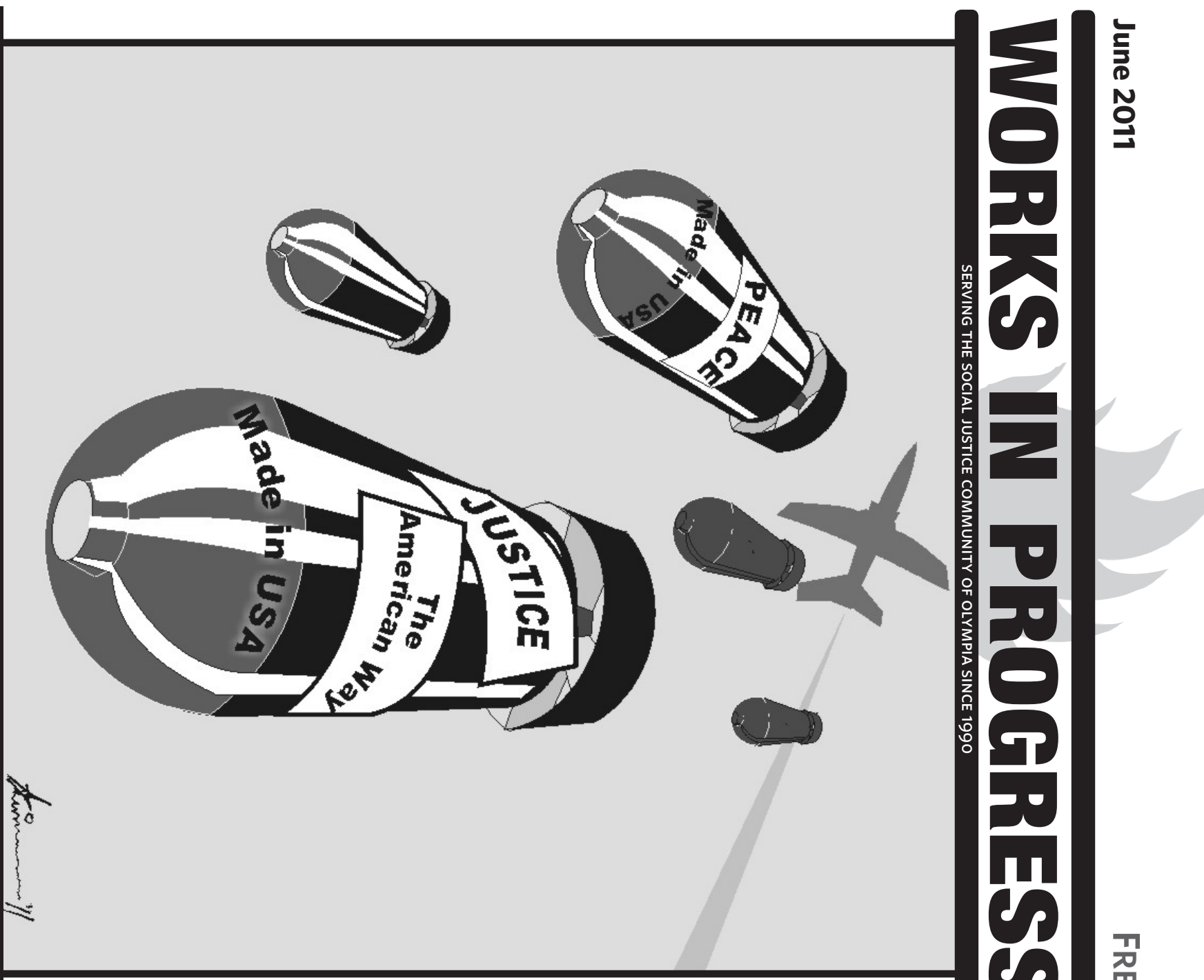
MR. FISH
JESUS CHRIST PISSING OFF HIS AMERICAN CONSTITUENCY BY DEMONSTRATING THE NUMBER ONE VALUE ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTANDING HIS RADICAL, MIDDLE EASTERN PHILOSOPHY.

June 2011

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

FREE



June 2011 WORKS IN PROGRESS FREE